MINNESOTA

October 21, 2024

Mr. Michael Thompson, P.E. Chair, TAC Funding and Programming Committee Metropolitan Council 390 Robert Street North St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Program Year Extension Request for SP 027-753-021 CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) Roadway Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Hennepin County (County) was awarded \$7,000,000 in federal funding as part of the 2020 Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation to reconstruct CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) between Marshall Street NE (CSAH 23) and Washington Street NE in the City of Minneapolis. Federal funds were awarded for program year 2025.

Over the past few years, County staff have advanced project development with the intent of obtaining federal authorization by the required deadline. In coordination with agency partners, and projects led by other agencies, especially MnDOT's project on TH 47 (University Avenue) that intersects this project, it became necessary to look at options to shift the timing for federal authorization. Due to the limited public right of way at the CSAH 153 and TH 47 intersection and the complexity of designing the intersection in a way to better serve freight operations, this lengthened the time to work through preliminary design and public engagement significantly. Currently, MnDOT anticipates the MN 47 Project construction will begin in 2027. The County project on Lowry Avenue could be constructed over two construction seasons from 2026 to 2027 if granted a program year extension, which would line up well with MnDOT's MN 47 Project timeline. Additionally, the coordination with the MnDOT project on TH 47 (University Avenue) created an opportunity to have the MnDOT project deliver the intersection of TH 47 and CSAH 153 with their project to allow additional time for concept development and public engagement.

Due to the change in scope of the County project, and the time the County project team put into preliminary design concepts, this process delayed municipal approval of the layout which also delayed County staff's ability to advance other aspects of the project. Municipal approval was granted by the City of Minneapolis full council on September 19, 2024.

Hennepin County is requesting that the TAC Funding and Programming Committee consider a program year extension from 2025 to 2026 to allow for completion of the right of way acquisition process, coordination with BNSF for the at-grade railroad crossing improvements, obtain permits, finalize plans, specifications, estimates and agreements.

Hennepin County Transportation Project Delivery Public Works Facility, 1600 Prairie Drive, Medina, MN 55340 612-596-0300 | hennepin.us



Please refer to the enclosed documentation and attachments for additional information regarding this request. I invite you to contact me with any questions at 612-596-0365 or by email at <u>Kelly.agosto@hennepin.us</u>.

Sincerely,

Kelly Agosto, P.E. Senior Professional Engineer Hennepin County Transportation Project Delivery

cc: Colleen Brown, MnDOT State Aid Carla Stueve, Hennepin County Engineer Nariman Vanaki, Hennepin County Jessa Trboyevich, Hennepin County Chad Ellos, Hennepin County Jason Pieper, Hennepin County

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION

SP 027-753-021

CSAH 153 (LOWRY AVENUE) RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Hennepin County Transportation Project Delivery Public Works Facility, 1600 Prairie Drive, Medina, MN 55340 612-596-0300 | hennepin.us



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1. Project Progress

a. Progress Schedule

Please See Attachment 1.

b. Right of Way Acquisition

Municipal approval of the layout Permanent easements are necessary to support the ownership, maintenance, and operations of the pedestrian and bicycle facilities associated with the project. Temporary easements are necessary to support temporary occupancy to construct the project.

Acquisition work will begin December 1, 2024 and will be complete by December 1, 2025.

c. Plans

Municipal approval was granted by the City of Minneapolis council on September 19, 2024. The 90% roadway plans are anticipated to be complete in August 2025 with final plans anticipated December 2025.

d. Permits

Anticipated permits on this project include the following:

- NPDES
- MnDOT Short Form

e. Approvals

In addition to the permit approvals noted above, plan approval will be required from MnDOT, MnDOT State Aid, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis.

A draft of the environmental document (Categorical Exclusion) has been submitted to MnDOT Metro State Aid for review and will need final approval by Hennepin County and MnDOT State Aid.

f. Funding/Expenditures

To date, Hennepin County has spent approximately \$511,537.73 on consulting fees for preliminary design support, public engagement, geotechnical engineering, subsurface utility engineering, environmental documentation (Categorical Exclusion), and structural engineering for this project. In Addition, Hennepin County has incurred approximately \$478,038.77 in internal staff costs related to project management and preliminary design. These costs to date have been financed solely by Hennepin County. Remaining consultant fee commitments are anticipated to cost an additional \$206,139.61.

2. Justification for Extension Request

a. What is unique about this project that requires an extension of the program year?

Please see Attachment 2 for the original layout that illustrates the proposed area of work for the CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue) Reconstruction Project that was



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included in the county's funding application. As preliminary design progressed, a scope change need was identified in order to better coordinate the planned improvements in this area and allow for design advancement for both the Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project and MnDOT's MN 47 Project. MnDOT is developing a project with planned improvements along University Avenue, including the intersection with Lowry Avenue. See Attachment 3 for the revised Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project layout. The scope change is being requested concurrently with this Program Year Extension request.

A program year extension of one year is being requested to provide the necessary time for the Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project to be developed, minimize rework and impacts to the community. Please see Attachments 4 and 5 for letters of support from MnDOT and the City of Minneapolis.

b. What are the financial impacts if this project does not meet its current program year?

The Hennepin County Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project will need additional time to complete the design and right of way process to obtain federal authorization. Due to additional coordination, public engagement and concept development for the intersection with University Avenue, the preliminary design process delayed obtaining municipal approval from the City of Minneapolis. If the project is not granted the program year extension, \$7,000,000 in federal funds will be forfeited. As a result, additional local funds would be required from Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis contingent on County Board and City Council approval, respectively.

c. What are the implications if the project does not obtain the requested extension?

Hennepin County, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and MnDOT is taking appropriate steps toward coordinating the design of Lowry Avenue. Through this process, Hennepin County determined the best option is to request a scope change to remove the University Avenue intersection from the county project and instead include this intersection with MnDOT's MN 47 Project. The process of going through several design concept iterations for the intersection, which included gathering additional traffic data and public engagement extended the schedule and timing of obtaining municipal approval from the City of Minneapolis.

In order to complete final design and right of way acquisition work for the Hennepin County project, the requested program year extension is necessary. Additionally, there is coordination work with BNSF for an at-grade railroad crossing of Lowry Avenue to improve the crossing signal system and crossing surface, which is not able to advance until the final design work is at a point where BNSF can put an estimate to the needed improvements.



ΜΙΝΝΕSΟΤΑ

d. What actions will the agency take to resolve the problems facing the project in the next three to six months?

Continued coordination with MnDOT and the City of Minneapolis will occur to ensure the combined projects will be completed by the anticipated deadline of June 2026. Hennepin County will proceed with obtaining federal authorization through FHWA in June 2026, followed by project bidding and construction there afterwards.



Attachment 1

PROGRESS SCHEDULE FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION



Regional Program Year Policy

TAB Adopted: April 17, 2013 Administrative Modifications: August 20, 2014

Attachment 1: Progress Schedule for Program Year Extension

Enter request date Program Year 2026

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Check status of project under each major heading.
- 2. Enter dates as requested for each major heading.
- 3. Enter points as suggested by each applicable response.
- 4. Total points received in the TOTAL POINTS line on the last page. **The minimum score to be eligible to request an extension is seven points.**

ENVIR	ONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION PROJECT MEMORANDUM <u>X</u> Reviewed by State Aid Date of approval <u>Submitted for review 8/28/24</u>	If checked enter 4.	4
	Completed/Approved Date of approval	If checked enter 5.	
	EA Completed/Approved Date of approval	If checked enter 2.	
	EITHER Not Complete Anticipated Date of Completion If prior to January 3	1 of the program year, enter 1.	
OPPO	RTUNITY FOR PUBLIC HEARING (not necessary Completed	for project memorandum)	
	Date of Hearing	If checked enter 2.	
	<u>N/A</u> Not Complete Anticipated Date of Completion If prior to February 28 of the	e program year, enter 1	
FINAL	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (not required Completed/FONSI Approved Date of approval		
	<u>N/A</u> Not Complete Anticipated Date of Completion	of the program year, enter 1.	
STUDY	REPORT (required for Environmental Assessme	nt Only)	
	Complete/Approved Date of Approval N/A Not Complete Anticipated Date of Completion	If checked enter 1.	

Regional Program Year Policy

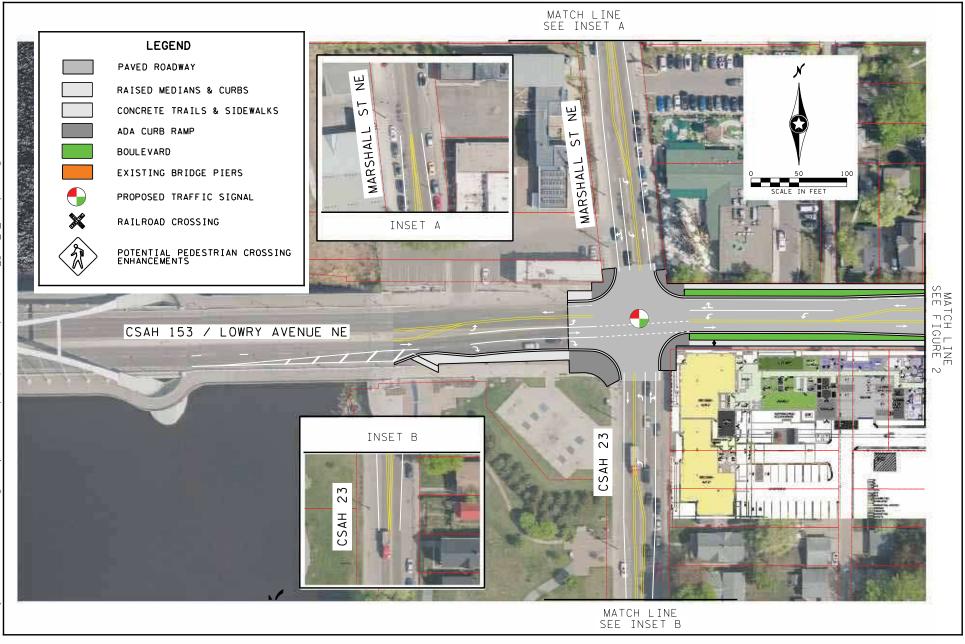
		Administrative Modifications: August	
CONSTRUCT			
	_Completed (includes signature of District	č ,	
	Date	If checked enter 3.	
	_Completed (approved by District State Ai		ned)
	Date	If checked enter 2.	
<u> </u>	_ I		
	Anticipated Date of Completion Decem		
	If prior to June 30 of the p	ogram year, enter 1.	
	AY ACQUISITION		
	_Completed (includes approval of R/W Ce	rt $\#1 \text{ or } \#1\text{ A}$) If checked enter 2	
	Date		
X	Not Complete		
	Anticipated Date of Completion Decem	ber 2025	
If prior to Dec	ember 31 of the year following the original		1
	ember of of the year following the original	program year, enter 1.	<u> </u>
ENGINEERS	ESTIMATE OF COSTS		
	_Completed	If checked enter 2.	
	Date		
Х	_Not Complete		
	Anticipated Date of Completion <u>Decem</u>	iber 2025	
If prior to Dec	ember 31 of the year following the original		1
		program your, ontor 1	_ <u>.</u>
AUTHORIZEI)		
Anticip	pated Letting Date January 2026		
•	Anticipated letting date must be prior to J	une 30	
	in the year following the original program		
	so that authorization can be completed p		
	June 30 of the extended program year.		
	ТОТ	AL POINTS	7

Attachment 2

ORIGINAL APPLICATION LAYOUT



Attachment 05 | Potential Layout





Hennepin County Improvements

Figure 1

Attachment 05 | Potential Layout





Hennepin County Improvements

CSAH 153 (Lowry Ave) from CSAH 23 (Marshall St NE) to Washington St NE $_{\rm Minneapolis,\,MN}$

Figure 2

Attachment 05 | Potential Layout





Hennepin County Improvements

Attachment 05 | Potential Layout

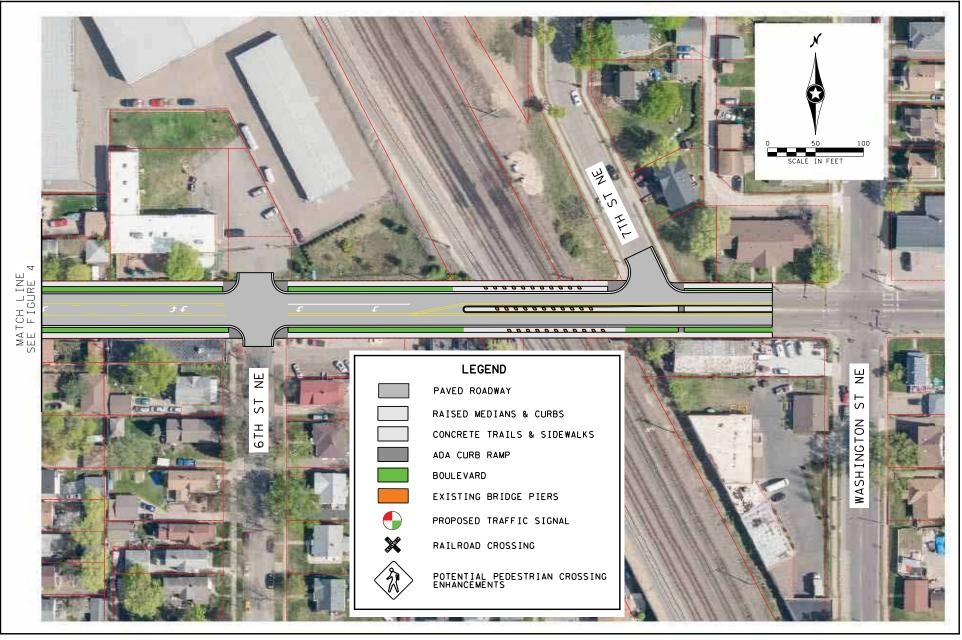


Hennepin County Improvements

CSAH 153 (Lowry Ave) from CSAH 23 (Marshall St NE) to Washington St NE Minneapolis, MN

Figure 4

Attachment 05 | Potential Layout





Hennepin County Improvements

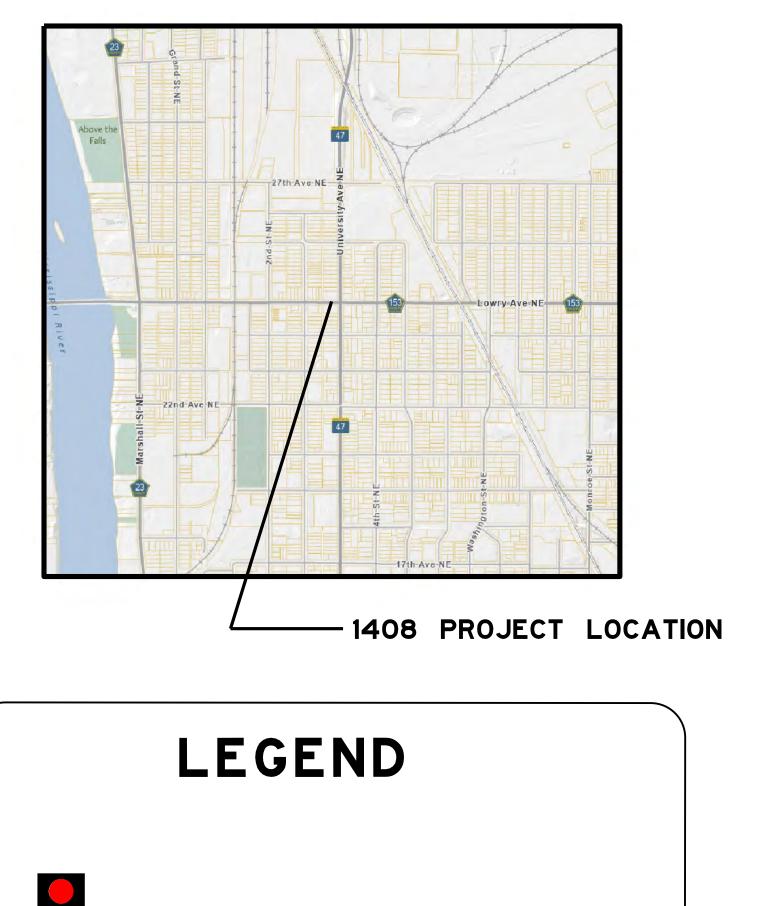
Attachment 3

PROPOSED LAYOUT WITH SCOPE CHANGE



PRELIMINARY LAYOUT 01 CSAH 153 - LOWRY AVE. NE Hennepin Co. Project No. 2140800 08/27/2024

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



	SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION
	PROPOSED ROAD
	PROPOSED TRAIL
	PROPOSED CONCRETE
	PROPOSED CONC. SIDEWALK
	PROPOSED GRASS
	PROPOSED DRIVEWAY APRON
EXISTING R/W	
	EXISTING PROPERTY LINES
	RAILROAD R/W
	METRO TRANSIT BUS STOP



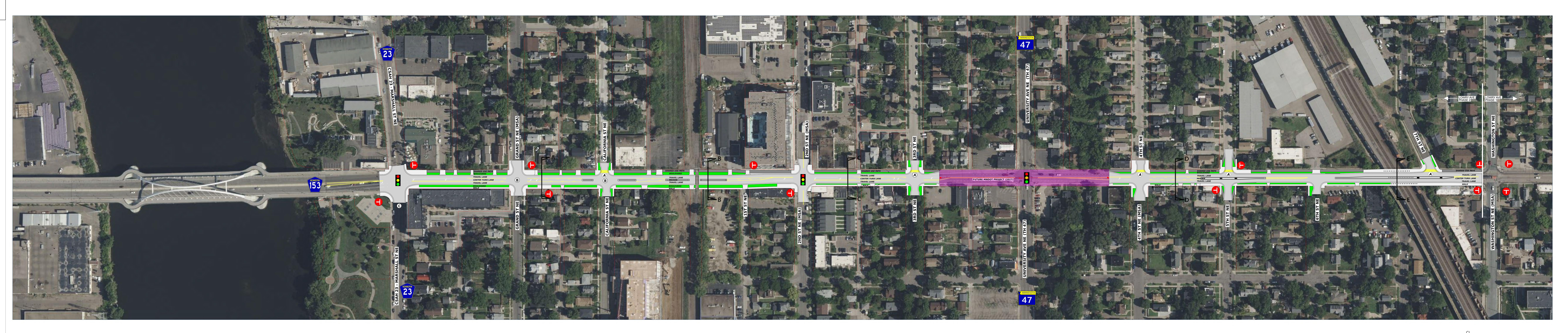
LOWRY AVE NE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION B-MINOR ARTERIAL

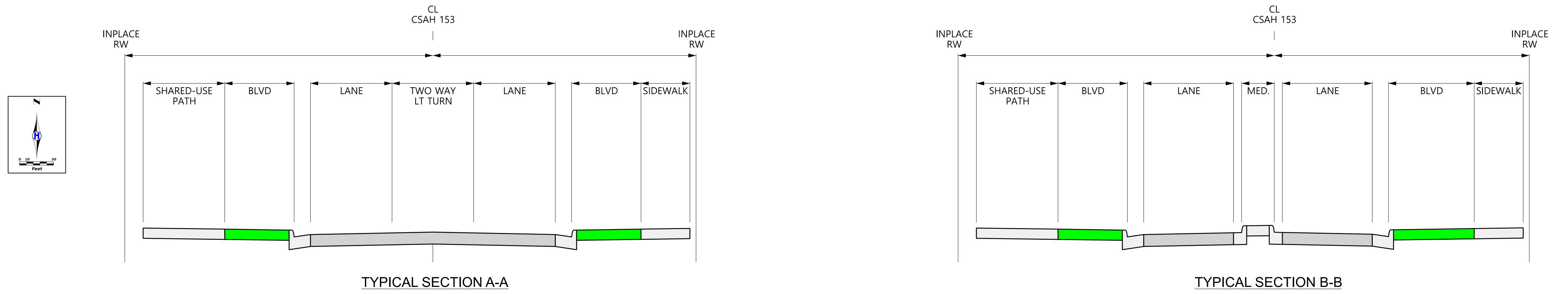
NOTES:

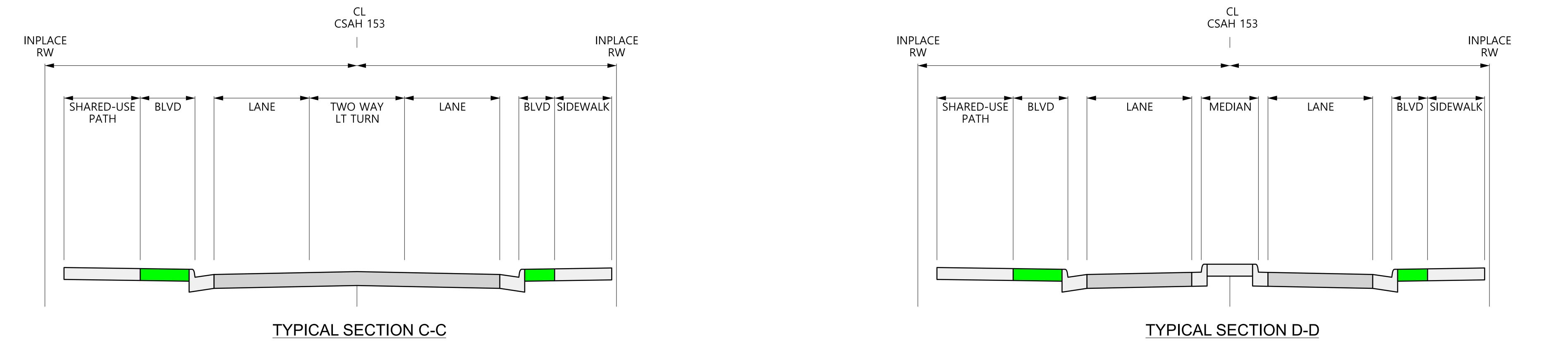
(A) RAISED CROSSINGS WILL BE EVALUATED AS THE PROJECT PROGRESSES TO DETAILED ENGINEERING

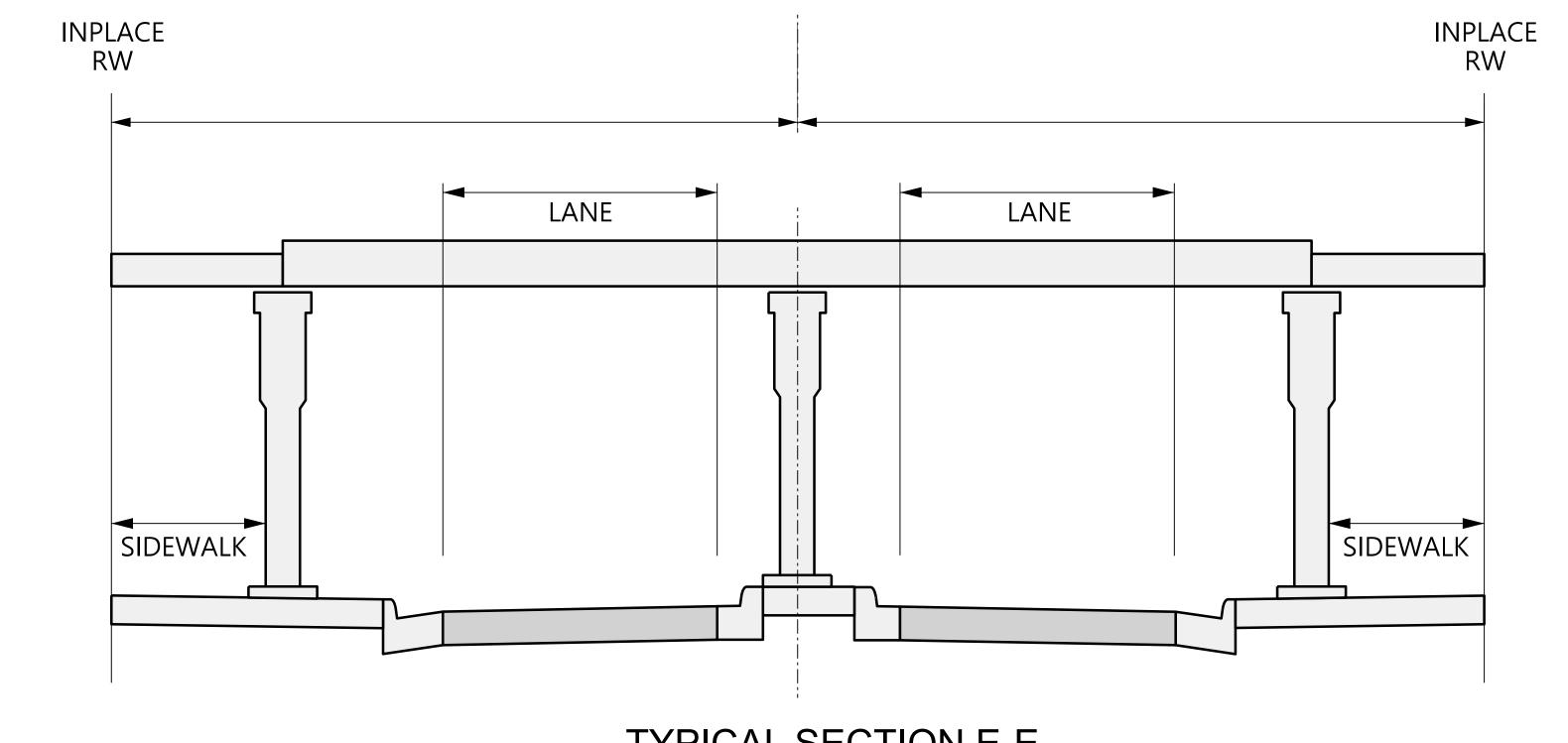
8/28/2024 REPE004 C:\Users\REPE004\Hennepin County\Hennepin County Transportation Design - HC_Projects\153_2140800\Design\Layouts\University_Removed - For Approval\1408_University_Removed.dgn

- B PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ENHANCEMENT UNDER EVALUATION FOR GRAND STREET NE OR CALIFORNIA STREET NE
- AS PLANNING FOR THE MARSHALL STREET NE Reconstruction project advances, the design Will be coordinated with lowry avenue ne.









CSAH 153

TYPICAL SECTION E-E

Attachment 4

SUPPORT LETTER FROM MnDOT



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Metro District Waters Edge Building 1500 W. County Road B-2 Roseville, MN 55113-3174

June 11, 2024

Carla Stueve, P.E., P.T.O.E. Director of Transportation Project Delivery and County Engineer Hennepin County Public Works 1600 Prairie Drive Medina, MN 55340

Subject: Letter of Understanding regarding intersection of TH 47 (University Ave.) and CSAH 153 (Lowry Ave.)

Dear Ms. Stueve:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation presents this letter of understanding regarding Hennepin County's Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project (SP 027-753-021); specifically, the planned reconstruction of the intersection of CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue) and MN 47 (University Avenue).

As the County is aware, MnDOT is developing a project with planned improvements along University Avenue, including the intersection with Lowry Avenue. The MnDOT project is planned for construction in 2027. MnDOT's STIP has MN 47 programmed as a pavement project in 2027 (SP 2726-78), which will be augmented to the greater Complete Street's corridor vision pending as funding allows. However, full funding is not secured, and this may dictate a delivery timeline of parts of the planned MN 47 project in subsequent fiscal year(s). This could impact the delivery of the Lowry Avenue and University Avenue intersection.

It is understood that Hennepin County has received federal funding for improvements along CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue), including the intersection of Lowry Avenue and University Avenue. Such work at this intersection includes new pavement, subbase, and curb/gutter; crosswalks, signage, and striping; pedestrian ramp upgrades, addition of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and push buttons; traffic signal replacement at all four quadrants; and off-street shared-use path on the north side of Lowry Avenue. It is further understood that Hennepin County is seeking a scope change to remove this intersection from their Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project and deliver the work with a future project. This will allow MnDOT and Hennepin County to better coordinate the planned improvements in this area and allow for design advancement for both the Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project and MnDOT's MN 47 project to inform the design of the intersection with University Avenue.

MnDOT understands that Hennepin County commits to participating in the cost of its originally scoped Lowry Avenue improvements and intends to enter into one or more interagency agreements to formalize that

commitment. Additionally, it is understood that Hennepin County commits to communicating these changes to the scope and timeline of the Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project with the public, working closely with MnDOT to ensure that the information shared is coordinated and consistent. Finally, it is understood that Hennepin County also commits to continuing active involvement in design development and issue resolution with MnDOT.

Pending future formal funding participation commitment and further project delivery coordination with Hennepin County, MnDOT supports consolidating Hennepin County's work at the Lowry Avenue and University Avenue intersection into future project delivery at this intersection extended to the limits of the current Hennepin County Lowry project (SP 027-753-021). Hennepin County will enter into one or more agreements with MnDOT to design and construct the Lowry Avenue and University Avenue intersection, including commensurate participation in design and right-of-way acquisition costs. Hennepin County will also participant in public engagement at the intersection, especially as it relates to right of way acquisitions. MnDOT commits to continue coordinating with Hennepin County and other stakeholders to identify, design, and align construction improvements at the Lowry Avenue and University Avenue intersection. Such consolidation will minimize construction impacts to the local community and roadway users and allow for a better product.

I request your reply if you have any disagreements with this Letter of Understanding. We look forward to continued coordination with Hennepin County on the MN 47 project.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Ryan Ryan Wilson Date: 2024.06.11 09:29:39

Ryan Wilson, PE AICP West Area Manager | Hennepin County MnDOT Metro District

cc:

Kelly Agosto, Hennepin County Project Engineer Jessa Trboyevich, Hennepin County Design Division Manager Nariman Vanaki, Hennepin County Assistant Director Project Delivery Alan Rindels, MnDOT Metro District SP 2726-78 TH47 Project Manager Christina Perfetti, MnDOT Metro District West Area Coordinator Scott Pedersen, MnDOT Metro District Program Delivery Engineer

Equal Opportunity Employer

Attachment 5

SUPPORT LETTER FROM CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS





July 25, 2024

Carla Stueve, P.E., P.T.O.E Director of Transportation Project Delivery and County Engineer Hennepin County Public Works 1600 Prairie Drive Medina, MN 55340

Re: Letter of Support regarding intersection of TH 47 (University Avenue NE) and CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue)

Dear Ms. Stueve:

The City of Minneapolis presents this letter of support regarding Hennepin County's Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project (SP 027-753-021); specifically, the planned reconstruction of the intersection of CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue) and TH 47 (University Avenue NE).

The city is aware that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is developing a project with planned improvements along University Avenue (SP 2726-78), including the intersection with Lowry Avenue. Minneapolis Public Works staff have attended planning meetings for both Hennepin County and MnDOT's projects at this intersection. We are aware that MnDOT's project is currently programmed as a pavement project in 2027, but is being planned as a full reconstruction. We are also aware that the delivery year may be contingent on funding. MnDOT has committed to reconstructing Lowry Avenue to the limits at which Hennepin County's project stops, fulfilling its original scope.

It is understood that Hennepin County has received federal funding for improvements along CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue), including the intersection of Lowry Avenue and University Avenue. Such work at this intersection includes new pavement, subbase, and curb/gutter; crosswalks, signage, and striping; pedestrian ramp upgrades, addition of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and push buttons; traffic signal replacement at all four quadrants; and off-street shared-use path on the north side of Lowry Avenue. It is further understood that Hennepin County is seeking a scope change to remove this intersection from their Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project and deliver the work with the University Avenue NE project. This will allow MnDOT and Hennepin County to better coordinate the planned improvements in this area and allow for design advancement for both the Lowry Avenue Reconstruction Project and MnDOT's TH 47 project to inform the design of the intersection with University Avenue NE.

In order to promote efficient project delivery, Hennepin County and MnDOT have indicated it will be in the best interest of the public and all involved agencies to remove this intersection from the County project and have all improvements be delivered with the MnDOT project. The City of Minneapolis supports this consolidation of work, understanding that Hennepin County commits to participating in the cost of the scoped improvements and intends to enter into agreements with MnDOT to formalize that commitment for design and construction.

The City of Minneapolis looks forward to continued coordination with Hennepin County on the Lowry Avenue project, as well as advancing the improvements on University Avenue NE with MnDOT.

Sincerely,

Penijn Hages Jenifer Hager

Director of Transportation Planning & Programming Minneapolis Public Works