

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITIES OF MINNETONKA AND HOPKINS
JOINT CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011
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Minnetonka Council Present: Dick Allendorf, Bob Ellingson, Amber Greves, James Hiller, Brad Wiersum, and Mayor Terry Schneider

Hopkins Council Present: Rick Brausen, Kristi Halverson, Bruce Rowan, Cheryl Youakim, and Mayor Gene Maxwell

Minnetonka Staff: John Gunyou, GERALYN Barone, Julie Wischnack, Lee Gustafson

Hopkins Staff: Mike Mornson, Steve Stadler, Kirsten Elverum, Nancy Anderson, Tara Beard.

Shady Oak Road Reconstruction

Maxwell welcomed council and staff from the cities of Hopkins and Minnetonka, Hennepin County representatives and members of the business community and property owners.

Wischnack gave an overview of Shady Oak Road reconstruction project including changes to the design and funding since the joint councils last met in 2006.

Stadler explained the history of the road reconstruction layout and gave a summary of changes to the roadway since 2006.

Gustafson explained the road construction timetable and costs including cost savings due to reduced acquisitions and construction costs, federal funding and overall savings to the cities.

Elverum discussed the impact on residents and businesses in the project area. Property owner meetings have been held and future meetings will be held to provide updated project information.

Mark Kogler, HKGI project consultant hired by Hennepin County to examine parking and design elements of the project, gave an explanation of the proposed concept for the area affected by the road project and potential parking solutions for the businesses. Community works dollars could be used to accomplish the vision of the proposed design concept.

Staff updated the councils on the next steps of the project which include a final report from the Consultant, HKGI, working with Hennepin County on the approval for use of community works dollars, meetings with property owners in January, 2012, having revised layout approval by both cities in February, 2012, right-of-way acquisitions in 2013 and construction in 2014.

Staff presented the councils with two questions to consider:

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- Are the councils in general agreement with proposed layout for road improvement?
- Are the councils in general agreement about the approach for use of community works dollars?

Maxwell and Wischnack explained the community works dollars program.

There was much discussion by the councils regarding the positives of reduced costs, benefits of the turn lanes, parking and access to businesses, goal of maintaining as many businesses as possible, proposed office building, federal funding, community works dollars and funding deadlines, intersection designs, neighborhood buffer, number of current parking spots vs. proposed parking spots, timing of the project and utility replacement.

Staff and the consultants answered councils questions explaining traffic circulation, access points to properties, new office building proposal to facilitate new business, project timetables, funding deadlines, reasons behind intersection designs and that the number parking spots have been maintained but redistributed.

Some council members expressed support of the roadway improvements, recognizing the impact on the businesses, but feel the roadway will be safer, improve traffic flow and improvements will revitalize existing businesses and encourage new businesses. Council members were encouraged about the use of community works dollars and want to continue to work towards a plan that meets the needs of the business owners.

Hopkins council members discussed the fifty-fifty split of the construction project costs between the cities and would like more definite numbers to determine how the project will affect the taxpayers. Council members want to hear questions and concerns from business owners and residents about the project at upcoming community meetings in January before fully endorsing the project. Council members expressed concern about the community works dollars being available after approval by Hennepin County Board. Patrick Connoy and Dave Nuckols from Hennepin County explained the community works dollar approval process.

Council members discussed the importance of the two cities working closely together on the project and assuring all details are pulled together in order to keep the project on schedule and utilize the available federal dollars and community works dollars.

Mayor Maxwell thanked everyone for attending.

2. Adjournment

The joint study session adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

David Maeda
City Clerk