

**ADDENDUM I**

**BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL**

**WORK SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE**

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015, 5:45 – 6:45 P.M.**

Item 4. Discussion Topic

- a. Expansion (RFQ) Scope of Work for repairs to the Linden Street Bridge, Jersey Avenue Bridge and Cottage Avenue Bridge to include underpasses preparation for future Constitution Trail expansion. (That the City expand its RFQ Scope of Work for engineering services to include engineering for future Constitution Trail underpasses at Linden Street, Jersey Avenue and Cottage Avenue bridges over Sugar Creek.) *Revised Memo and Attachment 2.*



FOR COUNCIL: May 11, 2015

SUBJECT: Expansion of RFQ Scope of Work for repairs to the Linden Street Bridge, Jersey Avenue Bridge and Cottage Avenue Bridge to include underpasses preparation for future Constitution Trail expansion

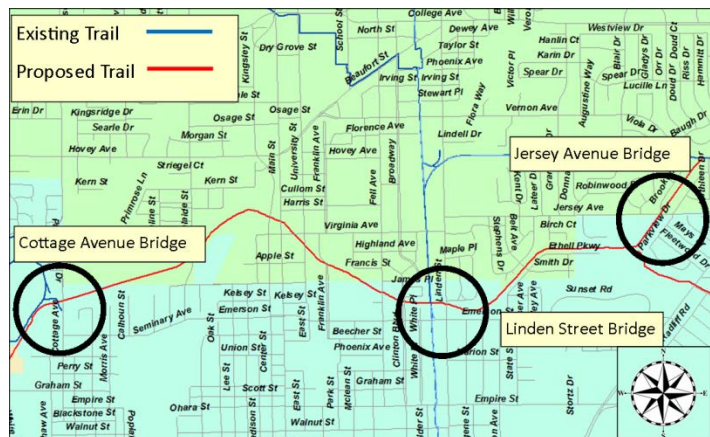
**RECOMMENDATION/MOTION:** That the City expand its RFQ Scope of Work for engineering services to include engineering for future Constitution Trail underpasses at Linden Street, Jersey Avenue and Cottage Avenue bridges over Sugar Creek.

**STRATEGIC PLAN LINK:** 1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services; and 5. Great Place—Livable, Sustainable City. Sugar Creek Branch of Constitution Trail supported in Parks Master Plan 2010 and McLean County Greenways Plan 2009.

**STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE:** 1a. Budget with adequate resources to support defined services and level of services. 5b. City decisions consistent with plans and policies and 5d. Appropriate leisure and recreational opportunities responding to the needs of residents.

**BACKGROUND:** Public Works has identified three (3) bridges in need of repair work. The bridges span Sugar Creek. One bridge, the Linden Street Bridge, needs deck replacement. It currently has restricted lane usage as a safety precaution. Construction currently is targeted for FY 2017. Engineering has proposed to design improvements for three bridges crossing Sugar Creek: on Linden Street, Jersey Avenue and Cottage Avenue. The latter two (2) do not require immediate work and are tentatively budgeted for construction near the end of the decade. However, the Jersey and Cottage bridge projects should be made shovel-ready now in the event that unexpected funding for bridge repair becomes available. Stimulus money periodically becomes available, and shovel-ready bridge projects are favored.

The three (3) bridges have a common element: None currently can facilitate a recreational trail underpass but all three (3) are identified as intersecting with future portions of the Constitution Trail in the City’s trail plan. The Constitution Trail is projected to run along Sugar Creek and cross virtually the entire width of the Twin Cities. This east-west span represents a long-term vision.



However, a major decision looms for the Bloomington City Council in regard to this vision. In conjunction with repair of the three bridges, the City can provide accommodations for the Constitution Trail to run underneath them. The additional engineering and construction work naturally would cause the City’s investment in the bridge repairs to rise. However, it is more

economical to provide trail underpass features now, during bridge reconstruction, than to retrofit the bridges with underpasses later. The bridges should last 50 years or more before additional major repairs are required. Fitting them now with trail underpasses responds directly to the Strategic Plan goals listed above.

The immediate issue before the Council regards the **Linden Street Bridge** because of its need for repair. *Attached maps and photographs give a visual overview of the project and the proposed trail expansion.*

Public Works must initiate repair of the bridge span regardless of how the City Council votes regarding the underpass question. Staff believes it will be more efficient and easier to prepare the bridge underpass at the same time as the repairs. However, doing so raises the cost of the bridge project by approximately 50 percent.

**Linden Street Bridge preliminary construction estimates:**

- \$600,000 for Linden Street Bridge repair.
- \$900,000 for Linden Street Bridge repair plus Constitution Trail underpass preparations including grading and retaining wall construction.

**Gauging Council interest:** Staff believes completing underpass preparations now will be in the long-term interest of the City. However, staff must first ascertain the level of City Council interest in and commitment to the trail expansion. If the City Council agrees to proceed with engineering design and construction of the trail underpass at Linden Street, staff will also include engineering design for trail underpasses at Jersey Avenue and Cottage Avenue, with those bridge repairs to be performed in out-years. If the Council decides to forego the underpass preparations at the bridges, City staff will proceed with preparations for standard repair of the bridges.

**Briarwood link:** Public Works and the Water Department are preparing “block by block” complete infrastructure rehabilitation for the Briarwood subdivision, which is directly northeast of the Linden Street Bridge. This will entail street, sidewalk, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water improvements. Planning for the project is budgeted in the current fiscal year. Construction will occur, at the earliest, in FY 2017 under current plans. The City could use this opportunity to prepare for eventual construction of a trail section from the subdivision. This possibly could set the stage for approximately 800 feet of new trail construction (see accompanying map). The trail would run from the south edge of the subdivision to the north side of Sugar Creek, westward under the Linden Street Bridge, and continuing westward along the creek toward the existing north-south portion of the Constitution Trail.



As seen in photographs (see memo attachment), the existing north-south stretch of trail is above grade, spanning Sugar Creek with a trail bridge. Therefore, the new section of trail would have to take a northward turn and continue for some distance in order to intersect with the existing trail. Staff has not yet prepared specifications and estimates as to the scope of the project. However,

the initial planning demonstrates that the Linden Street underpass could come into use in the creation of a significant stretch of trail expansion.

**Bicycle Master Plan:** The Bicycle Master Plan, which is before council this evening, looks at cycling routes from both recreational and multi-modal vantage points. In its current form, the Bicycle Master Plan concurs with the trail plan regarding an east-west trail along Sugar Creek. The bicycle route study, in other words, is validating the City's previous groundwork in regard to a Sugar Creek trail.

**Intergovernmental cooperation:** The Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD) controls the right-of-way along Sugar Creek and parts of the proposed trail expansion are in Bloomington and parts in Normal. The three entities will need to work cooperatively on project details. BNWRD, the Bloomington City Council and the Normal City Council will at some stage be presented with intergovernmental agreements.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED:** Professional staff, elected leaders and community residents from Bloomington-Normal have been and continue to be involved in trail planning. Community, Council and staff are involved in the Bloomington Bicycling Master Plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** The current council memo is asking for an increase in Scope of Work regarding the engineering services for three (3) bridges. If necessary, Public Works will bring forward a new Council memo if there is a change in budgeted funds from the State Motor Fuel Tax Fund for these projects.

Respectfully submitted for Council consideration.

Prepared by: Stephen Arney, Public Works Administration

Reviewed by: Jim Karch, PE, CFM, Director of Public Works  
Robert Moews, Superintendent of Parks  
David Lamb, Assistant Superintendent of Parks

Financial & Budgetary review by: Chris Tomerlin, Budget Analyst  
Carla A. Murillo, Budget Manager

Legal review by: Jeffrey R. Jurgens, Corporation Counsel

Recommended by:



David A. Hales  
City Manager

**Attachments:** Attachment 1. Maps  
Attachment 2. Proposed Underpasses

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Motion: That the City expand its RFQ Scope of Work for engineering services to include engineering for future Constitution Trail underpasses at Linden Street, Jersey Avenue and Cottage Avenue bridges over Sugar Creek.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Nay	Other		Aye	Nay	Other
Alderman Black				Alderman Mwilambwe			
Alderman Buragas				Alderman Painter			
Alderman Fruin				Alderman Sage			
Alderman Hauman				Alderman Schmidt			
Alderman Lower							
				Mayor Renner			

## **Proposed Trail Underpasses East-West Sugar Creek Trail Connection**

### **History:**

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department currently manages 28 miles of trail within City limits. The Public Works Department has identified 3 bridges in need of repair: Linden Street, Jersey Avenue, and Cottage Avenue. The Linden Street Bridge needs immediate deck replacement and currently has restricted lane usage.

All three bridges intersect with proposed portions of Constitution Trail. This proposed trail is identified in both the *Parks Master Plan Update* in 2010 and the McLean County Regional Planning Commission *Regional Greenways Plan* in 2009. The Parks Master Plan Update prioritizes this section of trail as priority “high.” The Regional Greenways Plan identifies this connection as “preserving green space” and an opportunity for trail expansion that is already under public ownership by Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD).

This is a long term planning decision that came to the forefront due to the need to repair the bridges. Currently the department has other trail development priorities. These include resurfacing, acquiring section from Lincoln to Lafayette and Lafayette to Hamilton.

### **Implications:**

Staff believes that it is more efficient and economical in the long run to design and construct these bridges with the trail underpass instead of trying to retrofit the trail to the bridges in the future.

The design estimate for Linden Street is **\$600,000 without underpass and \$900,000 with underpass**. The bridge repair schedule is as follows:

Linden Street	FY2016
Jersey Avenue	FY2020
Cottage Avenue	FY2021