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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** February 28, 2020  
**To:** City of Baxter Utility Commission  
**From:** Pete Lemke  
**Subject:** 2021 Inglewood Drive Railway Crossing and Associated Roadway Improvements  
City of Baxter  
Municipal Project No.: 4121  
BMI Project No. T42.120675

### Background

On February 18, 2020, the City of Baxter selected Bolton & Menk to develop plans and implement the 2021 Inglewood Drive Railway Crossing and Associated Roadway Improvements (Inglewood Drive) project. The project is focused on the relocation of the Knollwood Drive traffic signal and railroad crossing to Inglewood Drive, pavement rehabilitation on Foley Road, public utility improvements, and an improved configuration for the Forthun Road and Isle Drive intersection. The schedule is agency coordination, design, and final plans in 2020 and construction in 2021. At our Project Management Team (PMT) meeting #1 on February 20, 2020 MnDOT mentioned their forthcoming TH 210 Corridor Study and brought up for discussion the possibility of the City delaying the 2021 Inglewood Drive project to allow for consideration of outcomes from that study. As part of the MnDOT TH 210 Corridor Study, MnDOT will be evaluating the reduced conflict intersection (RCI) option to reduce the signalized intersections along the corridor. Questions arose on pedestrian crossings and traffic flow for this focus area, specifically for an RCI adjacent to a railroad and future pedestrian access and crossings.

### Project Update as of February 27, 2020

#### Agency Coordination

- In February we reached out to BNSF Rail and the MnDOT Rail Office to begin railroad coordination. We provided project limits information and figures and requested them to schedule the onsite diagnostic meeting required for railroad approval of our crossing relocation.
- MnDOT State Aid and MnDOT Rail Office attended our PMT meeting #1 where we discussed project funding details, project approval requirements, and agency coordination process.

With MnDOT's request for consideration to delay the Inglewood Drive project, we are providing information to guide the City in making a formal response indicating how they would like to proceed with the 2021 Inglewood Drive project in coordination with the MnDOT 210 Corridor Study.

#### Inglewood Drive Project

The Inglewood Drive project is a result of the City's 20-plus years of planning and the City's desire to consolidate TH 210/Railroad pedestrian crossings at identified major intersection locations along TH 210/Railroad and to achieve optimal traffic signal or major intersection spacing along TH 210. The

desired location of TH 210 pedestrian crossings and signalized intersections coincides with the City planning efforts and capital projects to provide pedestrian facilities along the roads leading up to the existing or planned intersections with TH 210/Railroad crossings.

These intersections with TH 210 include:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Prominent Features</u>
Timberwood Drive	Side Street Stop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-use Trail along Timberwood Drive</li> </ul>
Highland Scenic Road (CSAH 48)	Traffic Signal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-use Trail along CSAH 48</li> <li>Pedestrian gate arms at rail crossing</li> <li>Baxter Elementary School north of TH 210</li> </ul>
Inglewood Drive	Traffic Signal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-use trail along Inglewood Drive (north of TH 210)</li> <li>Multi-use Trail along south side of Foley Road</li> <li>Planned complete streets route west of TH 371 along Isle Drive Forthun Road, Foley Road, and Inglewood Drive</li> <li>Proposed rail crossing relocated from Knollwood Drive</li> <li>Proposed pedestrian crossing with gate arms relocated from Knollwood Drive</li> </ul>
TH 371	Traffic Signal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible traffic signal and pedestrian ramps at the intersection corners</li> </ul>
Cypress Drive	Traffic Signal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-use trail along Cypress Drive</li> <li>Pedestrian gate arms at rail crossing</li> <li>Accessible traffic signal and pedestrian facilities</li> </ul>
Baxter Drive	Traffic Signal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sidewalk along Baxter Drive</li> <li>Pedestrian facilities</li> </ul>

Completing the Inglewood Drive project will implement a significant piece of the City’s plan to provide a complete streets corridor along the west side of TH 371. The project (and the complete streets corridor) will support the City’s efforts to provide safe, efficient, and connected transportation and recreation opportunities for the travelling public from south of Highland Scenic Road to Pine Beach Road in the City of Baxter.

Complementing north-south connectivity and access parallel to TH 371, adding a full access major intersection on TH 210 at Inglewood Drive supports the city plan to consolidate pedestrian crossings of TH 371 at the intersections identified in the table above and provide optimal signal spacing progression along TH 371.

The following points would support Council direction to move forward with the planned Inglewood Drive project according to the scope and schedule approved by the City on February 18, 2020:

1. Recognition of a 20+-year planning process
2. Supports a long-planned pedestrian crossing of TH 210/Railroad and connects to existing or planned pedestrian facilities on Inglewood Drive, Foley Road, Forthun Road, and Isle Drive

3. Maintains a signalized pedestrian crossing along the Inglewood Drive/Isle Drive west side of TH 371 road corridor
4. Provides for optimal and even spacing of signalized intersections along TH 210 between CSAH 48 and TH 371
5. The planned traffic signal and railroad crossing gate arms (for vehicles and pedestrians) at Inglewood Drive is a safe solution consistent with other crossing in the City
6. The project benefits from the current understanding with BNSF that the Inglewood Drive crossing is identified as a crossing relocation (from Knollwood) and already meeting the railroad's requirements for a crossing at this location
7. Builds on the City investments in the reconstruction of Inglewood Drive north of TH 210 and Isle Drive south of TH 210
8. Supports the City's plan to reconfigure the Forthun Road/Isle Drive intersection
9. Supports the City's plan for extending improvements north on Isle Drive and to reconfigure the Foley Road & Forthun Road intersection (including the identified need for purchase of land at the Foley/Forthun intersection)
10. Moving forward with the Inglewood Drive project does not harm MnDOT's plan to study the TH 210 corridor to identify safety, access, capacity, or mobility issues and recommend improvements
11. Moving forward with the Inglewood Drive project would leave open the opportunity for a future Cooperative Agreement project partnership with MnDOT to implement safety, access, capacity, and mobility improvement recommendations coming out of MnDOT's TH 210 Corridor Study
12. Funding for the Inglewood Drive project is in place; revising the project may present a different funding picture
13. Delaying the project will likely raise construction cost due to inflation
14. The Inglewood Drive project will bring about the needed pavement rehabilitation along Foley Road for effective pavement management; delaying the project may require a separate pavement maintenance operation to temporarily improve (or maintain) the pavement

The following points would support Council direction to pause the planned Inglewood Drive project and allow MnDOT's TH 210 Corridor Study to influence the direction of improvements related to the Inglewood Drive project:

1. Give the City and MnDOT the opportunity to combine recommended improvements on TH 210 and the Inglewood Drive improvements into an overall solution for the area
2. Delaying the Inglewood Drive project could provide the time necessary to implement planned Isle Drive improvements in conjunction with the Inglewood Drive improvements
3. With the request to delay the Inglewood Drive project, MnDOT has agreed to work with the City to ensure funding would remain intact.

Continued MnDOT TH 210 Corridor and Inglewood Drive project coordination:

The Inglewood Drive project management team has discussed that given council direction to move forward with the project, we would periodically check in with MnDOT and their progress on the TH 210 study. Specifically, we would revisit the question with City Council to delay the Inglewood Drive project in approximately 3 months. Supporting this approach, Trevor Walter, City Public Works Director will represent the City of Baxter on the TH 210 study. He will lead the City's Inglewood Drive project and be fully informed on both projects, allowing him to be aware of issues that would lead us to recommend delaying the Inglewood Drive project.

Bolton & Menk, is under contract with the City of Baxter for the Inglewood Drive project. Separately MnDOT is in the process of hiring a different Bolton & Menk project team to complete the TH 210

Name: Trevor Walter

Date: 2/28/2020

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Corridor Study. We do not anticipate any real or perceived conflict of interest with these projects. If any issue does arise, we will be diligent to inform Trevor Walter and the MnDOT project manager.