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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 27, 2021  
**To:** City of Baxter Utility Commission  
**From:** Aaron Warford  
**Subject:** 2022 Inglewood Drive Railway Crossing and Associated Roadway Improvements  
City of Baxter  
Municipal Project No.: 4121  
BMI Project No. T42.120675

### Background

Bolton & Menk is the design consultant for the City of Baxter on this 2022 Inglewood Drive Railway Crossing and Associated Roadway Improvements (Inglewood Drive) project ([www.inglewooddrive.com](http://www.inglewooddrive.com)). The project focuses 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 project remains within the conceptual design and public input phase as stated in the previous project update as staff has continued coordination with MnDOT District 3 and MnDOT Central Office on geometrics and alternatives for all the TH 210 corridor. Contract discussions between BNSF and Benesch Associates on the railroad crossing designs are advancing. Public input such as an open house event and project updates were planned over this past month.

Past options discussed with MnDOT for the Knollwood Drive/TH 210 intersection included: Open intersection with Full access, ¾ design, a Full Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI), an alternative/modified design of an RCI and a temporary signal option. All alternatives except for the RCI were eliminated to ensure traffic controls and safety measures meet the goals of the Highway 210 corridor study and the overall vision for the Knollwood and Inglewood intersections. Continued conversations with MnDOT District 3 are being had to ensure the RCI is a cost-effective solution.

### Project Update as of July 27, 2021

#### Staff Updates

On July 5, 2021, Aaron Warford was identified as the new Project Manager from Bolton & Menk for the project. His bio and background are attached and an email blast through the project website was sent out to the public of this staff change. Derek Arens, Design Engineer and Engineer of Record, and the overall design team remains on the project and will be the public contact moving forward as stated on the website.

### Agency Coordination

On July 8, 2021, the project staff met with Kelvin Howieson and Luke Wehseler from MnDOT District 3 along with Jamal Love from MnDOT's Geometric Design Support Unit (GDSU) to discuss the proposed RCI at the Knollwood Ave/TH 210 intersection. The outcome was a design (attached) that still allows for the full effect of an RCI design type but reduces costs significantly from other concepts that have been shared. Offsetting the turn lane for the left U-turn movement further west eliminates the need for the turn lane overlap which causes the widening of Eastbound TH 210.

On July 20, 2021, the Baxter City Council gave consensus to move forward with the offset turn lane RCI design (per attachment) with the understanding that MnDOT pays for the improvement. They asked City staff to get a commitment from MnDOT for funding in writing.

### Public Involvement

An open house was held on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the Council Chambers at City Hall. Updates to the website such as adding open house materials were applied.

Concerns and questions from residents included: the City's assessment policy, how are parcels going to be assessed/designed, request of (right/left) turn lanes at the intersection of Knollwood Drive/Foley Road, and consideration in addressing drainage issues along Foley Road that lead to icy conditions in the winter. A full recap of these comments and the project team responses will be included in an email blast along with posted on the website in the coming week.

The website has an interactive map that the public can view and provide comments to the project. Responses to those comments will be addressed monthly. They will be both posted on the website along with being sent through the website's email blast system to those that are signed up.

### Design

The current layout of the project and one that was shared at the open house is available on the project website. The only component of the project that remains undecided is the RCI design as mentioned in Agency coordination.

On July 12, 2021, MnDOT provided comments on the submitted ICE report for the proposed TH 210/Inglewood Drive intersection. MnDOT questioned the need for additional reports for TH 210/Knollwood Drive and Isle Drive/Forthun Road. Coordination on determining needs for the Isle Drive/Forthun Road is still in progress but the TH 210 Knollwood Drive one was created.

On July 27, 2021, new and updated ICE reports for the TH 210/Knollwood Drive and TH 210/Inglewood Drive intersections were submitted to MnDOT D3 Traffic for review. (Attached)

Only July 27, 2021, a geometric layout was submitted to MnDOT D3 for an official level 1 review by MnDOT GDSU for signoff on the design of the improvements on TH 210.

Only July 27, 2021, a figure of the mini-RAB design of the Forthun Rd/Isle Drive intersection was submitted to the City. (Attached)

The project traffic staff is continuing progress on the Glory Road/Isle Drive intersection ICE report.

Project Development

Between a transition of project managers and the determination of the project extents, a revised schedule has been compiled and is attached.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION**

None.

With the RCI addition at TH 210/Knollwood Drive per MnDOT's request, the continued goal of the project team is to keep all construction costs at the responsibility of MnDOT. Design costs to the consultant of Bolton and Menk will be processed through the City's contract with the intention of it all being reimbursed by MnDOT. The intent is to have all contract scope creep and changes addressed and determined by the next project update.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

None.

Memo is for informational purposes only.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED**

None.

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