

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

09.08.2021

Department Origination:
Public Works

Agenda Section:
Utilities Commission

Agenda Item: 2022 Inglewood Drive Railway Crossing and Associated Roadway
Improvements Project Update
City of Baxter - Municipal Project No.: 4121
BMI Project No. T42.120675

Approval Required: No Action Required

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). 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.

Past options discussed with MnDOT for the Knollwood Drive/TH 210 intersection included: Open intersection with Full access, $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 August 31, 2021

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 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.

On August 4, 2021 the Level 1 Layout was submitted to MnDOT. Minimal comments were received. Comments included adapting U-Turn movements to accommodate snowplows. Median openings and noses are being analyzed.

Exhibit A for the new Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway crossing at Inglewood Drive has been submitted and is in the hands of Benesch and Associates for review.

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 project has been split into two design packages. One package contains improvements on TH 210 at Knollwood Drive and Inglewood Drive as well as the extension of Inglewood Drive from TH 210 to Foley Road including the new BNSF railway crossing. The second package contains local improvements on Foley Road from Highland Scenic Road to Elder Drive and the realignment of the Isle Drive and Forthun Road intersection to include a mini roundabout.

Feasibility studies have been prepared for both packages and are being reviewed by City staff. 60% design plans for the local improvements to Foley Road and Isle Drive/Forthun Road intersection have been submitted to City Staff for review.

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None, information only.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

None, information only.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

None, information only.

ATTACHEMENTS: