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## **MEMORANDUM**

**Date: October 15, 2015**

**To: City of Lake Elmo**

**From: Frank Ticknor, Washington County Project Manager**

**Re: County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 (Manning Avenue); CSAH 10 (10<sup>th</sup> Street) to southern access to Oak-Land Junior High – Phase 1 of the CSAH 15 (Manning Avenue): I-94 to TH 5 Corridor Study**

CSAH 15 from I-94 to Trunk Highway (TH) 5 is an important north-south arterial roadway in this region of Washington County. Traffic volumes on this road range from 10,500 to 13,600 vehicles per day. This corridor is included in the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan as a Priority 1: critical. Therefore, Washington County issued a Request for Proposals for preliminary design and environmental documentation services in March of 2013.

The corridor study is now complete and the first phase of identified improvements is ready to proceed to final design: Intersection improvements at CSAH 15 (Manning Avenue) at CSAH 10 (10<sup>th</sup> Street) and at the two access points to Oak-Land Junior High. The intersection at CSAH 10 is currently very wide and is controlled by an existing 4-way stop and the intersection crash rate is above the statewide average. Oak-Land Junior High currently provides access to users via two driveways; one for school buses and one for staff and parent/student drop-off. These two driveways pose safety concerns for all users who exit or enter Manning Avenue due to the high volume of traffic. Also, there are no pedestrian facilities along the corridor although there are residential neighborhoods in the area and the emergency evacuation location for the school is St. Lucas Community Church which is north along Manning Avenue.

The proposed improvements include a traffic signal at CSAH 10 and at the southern access to the school as well as access modification at the northern access to the school that eliminate left turn movements but allow for left turn access from Manning Avenue. The scope also includes pedestrian facilities and improved storm drainage facilities that limit impacts to adjacent properties. We feel the scope of this project significantly improves safety, increases capacity, provides improved pedestrian accommodations including compliance with ADA guidelines, and provides improved pavement and drainage conditions. The proposed design will match into the existing roadway system while considerations will be made for the identified future expansion of the corridor.

This project has been developed with the coordination of the Cities of Lake Elmo and West Lakeland Township as well as with the Stillwater School District, Oak-Land Junior High, and private residents along the project limits. Besides the design of these safety improvements, there are cost considerations coordinated with the City of Lake Elmo. All cost participation items are established by the current cost participation policy between the County and Cities. The items that are the responsibility of the City of Lake Elmo are as follows:

- Construction Items (50% share)
  - Curb and gutter (\$11,120)
  - 6" concrete walk for ped ramps (\$4,040)
  - 3" bituminous walk (\$9,160)
- Right of way & Temporary Easements (55% share)
  - Northwest corner of Manning and 10<sup>th</sup> Street (\$12,610)
- Total City cost = \$36,930

The project schedule is to have final design complete this fall with the project being bid over the winter of 2016 in preparation for construction starting in the spring of 2016. The construction schedule will include the requirement to be complete by the end of August 2016 to accommodate the beginning of school.

The County is requesting from the City of Lake Elmo a resolution of support for this project, Manning Avenue Phase 1, as described by the attached layout exhibit including the commitment of the total city costs of \$36,930 as summarized above. It is the County's intent that once final design is complete the County will work with the City of Lake Elmo to draft a Cooperative Agreement for this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important safety improvement project.

Frank Ticknor  
Washington County  
Project Manager