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March 29, 2023

**Re: Proposed 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue Reconstruction**

City Improvement Project #23-01 proposes to reconstruct 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83) and Variolite Street. This project is included in the 2023 – 2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for reconstruction in 2023. Property Owners will not be assessed for these improvements.

On March 14, 2023, the Ramsey City Council approved plans and specifications and authorized advertisement for bids for this project. Staff is proposing to open bids for the project on April 19, 2023

Proposed Project Schedule:

- April 19, 2023, bids will be opened and reviewed to ensure they comply with all bidding requirements.
- April 25, 2023, the lowest responsible bid will be presented to City Council for award of a construction contract.
- Late May / early June 2023, the Contractor may begin construction. Before construction begins, the City and Contractor hold a pre-construction meeting, during which time the Contractor provides their proposed construction schedule. Another letter will then be mailed with specific construction information.
- September 1, 2023, the Contractor substantially completes construction, including finishing all driveway repairs, utility repairs, and having the new bituminous pavement in-place.
- September 29, 2023, the Contractor reaches final completion on the project, including project clean up and creating a punch list of minor items to be repaired or adjusted.

Proposed Improvements:

161<sup>st</sup> Avenue is a Municipal State Aid (MSA) street, and must be designed to MSA standards. Staff is proposing to generally leave the street at the current 29-foot width, but replace the bituminous curb with concrete curb and gutter. Staff is proposing to meet the required 10-ton MSA strength design with a 10-inch pavement section including 4-inches of new bituminous pavement over 6-inches of aggregate base. Pavement markings will generally match existing markings. The existing driveways and boulevards along the corridor will have impacts due to construction, however, all impacts are proposed to be contained within the City-owned right of way.

The project will add a 10-foot wide bituminous trail along the north side of 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue. This trail will connect to the existing pedestrian landing built with the 2020 Variolite Street reconstruction, and connect to the existing

trail at the west side of Central Park. All trail crossings will include concrete pedestrian ramps, built to current ADA standards.

The Central Park southern parking lot and attaching park drives will be reconstructed, including concrete curb and gutter to meet current City of Ramsey requirements. Two basketball courts will be marked out in the parking lot, and include 4 new basketball hoops. Central Park main parking lot will be reconstructed in the fall of 2023 as a separate project, Improvement Project #23-02.

Stormwater runoff is currently handled through curb cuts and swales to existing ponding areas located in drainage and utility easements on the south side of 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Easements exist at 16045 Xenolith Street; which handles runoff on the eastern portion of the project, and a large ponding area on 7826 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 7833 159<sup>th</sup> Lane; which handles runoff on the western portion of the project as well as runoff from the Central Park parking lots. This project is proposing to replace the existing curb cuts and swales with storm sewer inlets placed in the new curb lines and piping to the ponding areas. This is to remove the safety hazard of having storm water runoff flowing across 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The ponding areas will need to be excavated approximately 7 feet deeper to accommodate piping. The storm sewer is proposed to handle the 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue corridor and existing drainage areas, no accommodations for PACT Charter or a future Saint Katherine Drexel development are being proposed.

Municipal water and sanitary sewer utilities exist at the intersection of 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Variolite Street. These utilities will need to be extended to the west to connect the proposed PACT Charter School to the system. This project is extending 8-inch sanitary sewer and watermain, and is coordinating with PACT Charter for the location of their service connections. The services will be constructed up to the right of way, which is expanding an additional 14 feet north as part of the PACT Addition. The project stubs water and sewer into the southeast corner of Central Park, to allow for future connection of park facilities, when the time comes to replace the existing well and septic systems. The residential properties south of 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue are not within the MUSA, and Staff is not proposing to extend water and sewer services to these properties with this project.

#### Property Impacts:

Access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction as best as practical. City Staff will work with all property owners during construction to ensure they are informed in advance of any work that will affect and/or interrupt access to their property for any length of time, particularly due to reconstructing driveway aprons. Access for emergency services will be maintained throughout construction.

Private lawn irrigation systems may be impacted by this work. Relocating and/or repairing private irrigation systems within public right of ways as needed to accommodate construction is the responsibility of the property owner. If you have a below ground irrigation system, you will be asked to mark your sprinkler heads with flags or stakes to assist the Contractor in preventing or minimizing damage to your system during construction. Free flags will be available at the Engineering Department in the Ramsey Municipal Center located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the above address. To help ensure that your system will not be damaged during this project, please relocate

sprinkler heads and other system components located within the construction limits. City Staff will mark construction limits for you upon request.

The engineer's opinion of probable costs for the proposed improvements is \$1,924,154.19. Estimated costs include 23-percent indirect costs for administration, engineering, finance, and legal costs. The improvements are proposed to be funded using a combination of Municipal State Aid Funds, Stormwater Utility Funds, Sanitary Sewer Utility Funds, Water Utility Funds, and Park Improvement Trust Funds. Again, property owners will not be assessed for these improvements. This is an estimate based on final plans and anticipated 2023 construction costs. The final project costs may vary dependent upon actual bid prices and quantities.

More details on this project are available on the project webpage at <https://www.cityoframsey.com/894/161st-Avenue-Armstrong-to-Variolite-IP-2>. The webpage for this project will be updated as new information becomes available, so please check back often for updates.

Please feel free to contact me at 763-433-9893 or [jferiancek@cityoframsey.com](mailto:jferiancek@cityoframsey.com) with any questions or input related to this project. If the project moves forward to construction, you will receive another letter containing more information on the project, including the proposed schedule, who to contact during construction, and reminding you to mark underground irrigation system lines and components with flags if applicable.

Sincerely,



Joe Feriancek

Assistant City Engineer