



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole – September 23, 2019
City Council – October 7, 2019

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council

10/07/2019

Maureen Storstad
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City Auditor

Agenda Item: Request from MPO to Initiate Hydraulic Studies at Potential Future Bridge Locations

Submitted by: Engineering Department, Allen Grasser, PE (City Engineer)

Staff Recommended Action: Direct Engineering Department to prepare a scope of work and advertise for request for qualifications for a hydraulic study at potential bridge locations located at Elks Dr, 32nd Ave S and 47th Ave S

Committee Recommended Action: Refer to Council for approval.

Council Action: Motion by Weber, second by Mock to approve the staff recommendation . Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 5-1, with Weigel dissenting. (Sande was absent)

BACKGROUND:

This staff report is intended to provide some background information on this topic. In recent months the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been discussing potential future bridge locations including reviewing draft scope of work for a bridge feasibility study. The first step in this proposed study was a hydraulic analysis. At a recent MPO Executive Board meeting, the board was informed that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) have indicated that the hydraulic analysis portion of the scope of work would not be eligible for planning funding.

The MPO staff report indicated that MPO staff met with MPO City Councilmember Representatives and City Administrators and recommended separating the ineligible work from the MPO planning work. Those in attendance agreed that this was a good concept to pursue, and the general plan of action was for the two cities to split the cost of Elks Dr and 32nd Ave S study locations, with the 47th Ave S being fully funded by Grand Forks. It is currently estimated that the hydraulics study will cost approximately \$30,000 per bridge location. Estimated City share is \$60,000.

At the September 17, 2019 East Grand Forks City Council meeting, the East Grand Forks City Council considered adopting a Resolution No. 19-09-61 authorizing the funds of approximately \$15,000 towards the hydraulic study for the 32nd Ave location contingent upon the approval from the Grand Forks City Council. East Grand Forks City Council did not authorize funding for Elks Dr.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- The hydraulic study is not considered eligible for Federal funding through the MPO.
- The current estimated cost of a hydraulic study is \$30,000 per location.
- It is anticipated that East Grand Forks would cost share with 32nd Ave S bridge location.
- Anticipated City share is \$75,000.
- If authorized to advertise for proposals, staff would then review qualifications of firms interested in performing work and select the most qualified firm and negotiate a contract which would be brought to a future Committee of the Whole and City Council meeting for approval.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- MPO Staff Report Review Draft Scope of Work for Bridge Feasibility Study (5 pages)
- Relevant Pages from the East Grand Forks City Council September 17, 2019 meeting (7 pages)