

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, MARCH 14, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following members present: Alaina Kolpin.

Members absent: Larry Janssen, Chris Kielblock, Chad Cummings, Amy Ernst.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Steve Schneider, City Engineer Emeritus; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Marilyn Cilengi, Assistant City Engineer; Chad Nickel, Public Works Supervisor; Eric Roos, Public Utilities; Aaron Sieve, Public Utilities; Jeremy Braaksma, Public Utilities; Joe Byrne, Public Utilities; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Sam Martin, The Globe; Peter Engelmeyer, MnDOT; John Crawford, KLJ Engineering; Joe DeVere, KLJ Engineering; Anne Wolff, MnDOT; Ryan Sundberg, KLJ Engineering.

MN DOT/HIGHWAY 59 TURNBACK DISCUSSION

MnDOT District 7 and KLJ Engineering gave an update on the planned reconstruction of U.S. 59 in Worthington. The reconstruction project isn't planned to begin until the spring of 2027.

Ryan Sundberg, KLG Engineering, said the two lanes of northbound travel will be maintained up until Ryan's Road. The elevation is planned to be lowered to be in line with the elevation of the frontage road. Part of the reconstruction will include sidewalks on both sides of Humiston on the eastern side of the frontage road and then on the western side of Humiston to the south.

Peter Engelmeyer, MnDOT, said there will also be some work done on Humiston Avenue south of Oxford Street but the majority of the project focuses on North Humiston Avenue, between Oxford Street and Interstate 90 where a roundabout will be placed on North Humiston Avenue and Ryan's Road. Mr. Sundberg said there will be two lanes available for northbound traffic, two lanes available for southbound.

Also a change implemented since the last time council was updated is the creation of a northbound frontage road where drivers are able to get in and out of the roundabout through Arby's and Nickel and Associates.

Interstate 90 will also see work done to it in the coming years and a concurrent project will take place where the I-90 bridge is. Mr. Sundberg said the improvements being proposed should result in improved traffic flow, and better ease for city maintenance during snow removal.

Parts of Oxford Street going east will also be improved in 2028. The project would be the same as the CSAH (Nobles County State Aid Highway) 35 project that was recently constructed to the west.

It will have similar driving lane widths, similar sidewalks and boulevard. Funding options continue to be considered and include a possible combination of MnDOT turnback funds, Trunk Highway funds for the state-owned portions outside of MnDOT's pool, city cost and local cost share. The project's preliminary cost estimate is currently \$27.5 million.

The City of Worthington was recently notified it would receive a little over \$1 million in federal funding, with a match of \$1.35 million going toward the 2028 Oxford Street project. The county and city would have a 50-50 split on it, where the city would put in 80% of the construction costs while the county would match 20% of the cost by paying for the engineers and other costs necessary to bring them closer to the desired 50-50 split.

Mr. Engelmeyer said when a project entails altering access, increasing or reducing traffic capacity and required acquisitions of permanent right-of-way the MnDOT must receive municipality consent. The timeline for obtaining consent from the City of Worthington is due by September.

Following approval of consent, planning of the project will continue into the summer of 2026, with project letting beginning the fall of 2026. The Humiston Avenue project would go from spring to fall 2027. The Oxford Street project is planned to go from spring to fall 2028, which is the project's estimated completion date.

Council thanked MnDOT and KLJ Engineering for the update

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Rick VonHoldt declared the meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk