

Originator Engineering	Item Adopt Recommendations from the Highwood Drive Corridor and Intersection Traffic Study
Agenda Section	Date 6/2/2014

Description

This study is being conducted to plan for future cross-section and intersection control needs along Highwood Drive, from East Bush Lake Road (CSAH 28) to the west terminus near US Highway 169 (US169). Construction of the 169/494 interchange was substantially completed December of 2012. With the interchange project the intersection of US169 and Highwood Drive was eliminated and a cul-de-sac was constructed on Highwood Drive at US169. The interchange project also modified the ring roads in the area. It was anticipated that these modifications would alter travel routes/patterns on surface streets in the area, including Highwood Drive.

The goals of the study were as follow:

- Develop a plan for intersection control at the intersection of Highwood Drive and East Bush Lake Road;
- Identify any near or medium term improvements that could be made at the intersection of Highwood Drive and East Bush Lake Road to improve capacity and reduce delay;
- Develop a plan for intersection control at the intersection of Highwood Drive and West Bush Lake Road;
- Develop a roadway cross-section/lane configuration to optimize use of the existing roadway for vehicle and multi-modal needs, as well as aesthetics;
- Identify phased-in options for cross-section/lane modifications;
- Address pedestrian crossing safety concerns along the corridor;
- Evaluate, and address if appropriate, speeding concerns along the corridor;
- Identify and address other resident or stakeholder concerns along the corridor, as they become evident during the public involvement and stakeholder group process.

The study began in October 2013, with assistance from an Engineering Consultant. The study process included the development of a Study Advisory Committee (SAC) made up of representatives from Three Rivers Park District, Hennepin County and City Staff from many departments. The SAC met four times throughout the study, providing feedback and guidance on the alternatives developed and formulating a recommendation for both short and long term improvements. The study also incorporated resident feedback through two, well attended neighborhood open houses hosted in the neighborhood.

Please see enclosure materials for additional information.

Requested Action

Staff recommends Council adopt the following recommendations from the Highwood Drive Intersection and Corridor Traffic Study.

Near-Term Recommendation

- **Highwood Drive Corridor**
 - Two lane roadway with left turn lanes at key intersections and on-street bike Lanes
 - Multi-use trail on the south side of Highwood Drive
 - Removal of the flashing pedestrian beacons
- **East Bush Lake Road/Highwood Drive Intersection**
 - New traffic signal with existing roadway
 - Construct a southbound right-turn lane on East Bush Lake Road at 86th Street
- **West Bush Lake Road/Highwood Drive Intersection**
 - All-way stop control

Long-Term Recommendation

- **Highwood Drive Corridor**
 - Consider two-lane parkway with left-turn lanes at key intersections
- **East Bush Lake Road/Highwood Drive Intersection**

- New traffic signal with four lanes when/if a four-lane section is constructed between Chalet Road and Highwood Drive

Attachments:

Graphics of options for the Highwood corridor, East Bush Lake Road intersection and West Bush Lake Road intersection

Intersection operations analyses

Resident comments - comments received after April study meeting are at the end and shaded