



**DATE:** June 2, 2014  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Amy Marohn, Civil Engineer - Traffic  
**RE:** Engineering Memo – Highwood Drive Corridor and Intersection Traffic Study

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This memo contains the same information provided to the Council prior to the April 7, 2014 CC Study Session

This study is underway to develop a plan for the Highwood Drive Corridor and the intersections along the corridor, including for the intersection of East Bush Lake Road (CSAH 28) where the span-wire signal is reaching the end of its serviceable life. The traffic conditions on this roadway have changed considerably since completion of the 169/494 interchange, which eliminated Highwood Drive to US169 and changed the ring road system around the interchange.

#### **STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A Study Advisory Committee (SAC) was put together to guide the study. The committee included representatives from Hennepin County (local road authority of CSAH 28), Three Rivers Park District (adjacent property owners), and City Staff including representatives from Legal, Fire, Police, Maintenance, Planning, Parks and Engineering.

#### **OPEN HOUSE #1**

With some traffic studies in the past, the City has identified resident representatives to participate on the study advisory committee (SAC). In an effort to reach out to more of the residents and allow all who have an opinion to weigh in early on and throughout the process, we have replaced the use of the resident representative with a resident open house early on in the study and another one to present options for consideration and feedback.

The first open house was held on October 15, 2013 and hosted at the Richardson Nature Center, to be close to the neighborhood. The objective of the open house was to notify residents of the study and gather input regarding issues and concerns in the study area. There were 83 residents in attendance, from a total of 65 residences. Forty two comment cards were received at open house and eight additional comments were received by mail, fax and email, based on the information on the virtual open house found on the City website, keyword: Highwood Study. (Comments attached)

#### **DEVELOPED OPTIONS** (Graphics of options attached)

Options were developed to improve safety, capacity and neighborhood livability at the intersections and corridor. The options tried to limit the impacts to the Three Rivers Park District park land (at the East Bush Lake Road intersection) and limit impacts to the existing curb lines on the Highwood corridor. Each of the intersection options developed were modeled for operations analysis in the a.m. and p.m. peak hours, under current traffic conditions and forecasted 2030 traffic volumes. (Operations analysis attached)

### **Highwood Drive Corridor**

- Option A – Four-Lane Undivided Roadway with Multi-Use Trail on South Side
- Option B – Two-Lane Parkway with Left-Turn Lanes at Key Intersections and Multi-Use Trail on South Side
- Option C – Two-Lane Roadway with Left-Turn Lanes at Key Intersections, On-Street Bike Lanes and Multi-Use Trail on South Side

#### **East Bush Lake Road Intersection**

- Option 1 – New Traffic Signal with Existing Roadway
- Option 2 – New Traffic Signal with Four Lanes
- Option 3 – Multi-Lane Roundabout
- East Bush Lake Road Traffic Signal with a Continuous Northbound Green

#### **West Bush Lake Road Intersection**

- Option 1 – All-Way Stop Control
- Option 2 - Single-Lane Roundabout

### **OPEN HOUSE #2**

The second open house was held on February 10, 2014 at a larger site located in the neighborhood, Peace Lutheran Church, 8600 East Bush Lake Road. There were 84 residents in attendance, representing 72 residences, including 7 residents from Friendship Village. The options were presented at the open house in a presentation format, with Staff available at display boards to answer questions. A total of 61 comment cards received at open house and an additional 9 comment cards were received by mail, fax and email following the open house, with residents able to view the open house materials from the Highwood Study virtual open house on the City website. (Comments attached)

### **SAC RECOMMENDATION**

After review of the traffic data, options, analysis and resident feedback, the SAC has the following recommendations for the Highwood Drive corridor and intersections.

#### **Short-term recommendations**

- Highwood Drive Corridor
  - *Option C – 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
  - *Option 1 – 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
  - *Option 1 – All-Way Stop Control*

#### **Long-term recommendation**

- Highwood Drive Corridor
  - Consider Option B - Two-Lane Parkway with Left-Turn Lanes at Key Intersections
- East Bush Lake Road/Highwood Drive Intersection
  - Option 2 – New Traffic Signal with Four Lanes when a four-lane section can be constructed between Chalet Road and Highwood Drive

### **STUDY SESSION**

Staff and SRF Consulting will present the options and evaluation from the study, including the recommendations from the Study Advisory Committee. This is an opportunity for the Council to discuss any questions about the study and recommendations, and to request any additional information they wish to have

reviewed or considered prior to the City Council Public Hearing in which the Council will be asked to approve the recommendations from the Highwood Drive Corridor and Intersection Traffic Study.