



ITEM REPORT UTILITIES COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 6/8/2022
Agenda Section: Information Only

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: 2022 Trunk Highway 210 & Inglewood Drive Railway Crossing Improvements Project Update

Approval Required: Simple Majority Vote

BACKGROUND

PROJECT UPDATE AS OF May 27, 2022

BNSF

The public hearing for the closure of Knollwood Drive will be held at the June 7, 2022 City Council meeting. This will meet the requirements of obtaining a signed resolution from the City of Baxter by BNSF as part of the R/W process. Following the hearing, a resolution is proposed for the City Council at the same meeting of June 7, 2022.

MnDOT

The Project was expected to start advertisement for this TH 210/Inglewood Drive project May 18, 2022 but has since been delayed because MnDOT District 3 and MnDOT Central office has stated that a signed BNSF Construction & Maintenance Agreement doesn't meet the requirements to obtain a signed R/W certificate for the project. A signed R/W certificate is needed to obtain state authorization of the project and authorization of the project is needed to advertise.

In order to obtain a signed R/W Certificate, MnDOT has directed the project team to obtain the signed easement documents from BNSF. MnDOT has recommended that the City submit a Public Interest Finding (PIF) letter to allow for authorization of the project from the State and Federal Aid which allows for the approval of advertisement despite not receiving those signed easement documents. MnDOT has stated that the City cannot open the bids until the signed easement documents are submitted to them. If the signed documents are not in place by July 7, 2022 an addendum will be issued extending the bid opening date accordingly.

State funds for the project have been encumbered as of May 25, 2022. This means that the project has officially solidified the funding for construction and the threat of losing the funds from not meeting the deadline date of June 30, 2022 is no longer present.

Federal Aid

With the City expected to move forward with submitting the PIF letter, the federal authorization is expected to be obtained June 10, 2022. It shall be noted that the deadline to encumber the Federal funds is July 1, 2022. That means the project will need to obtain authorization by that date. Anything past that date up to September 30, 2022 which is the end of the Federal fiscal year, will need special State approval or the funding will be lost. The project team is highly aware of this deadline and continues to work with Federal Aid to meet these deadline requirements.

Schedule

See attachment for specific details.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

None

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

None