



ITEM REPORT CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Date: 8/18/2026
Agenda Section: Agenda Item

Department Origination: Administration

Agenda Item: Presentation of the VQAC Recommendations Related to the Hwy 371 Overpass Project

Approval Required: No Action Required

BACKGROUND

In March 2026, City Council appointed ten individuals to serve on a committee to assist with the selection of the aesthetic elements of the upcoming Hwy 371 Overpass project (Visual Quality Advisory Committee – VQAC). Over the past 4 months, the VQAC has worked with MnDOT and their consultant (Kimberly-Horn) in selecting the visual components (i.e. lighting fixtures, structural finishes, etc...) of the structural improvements on the said project. Having completed its work earlier this month, time has been set aside this evening to present the VQAC's recommendations.

Melissa Schultz, Bridge Architectural Specialist with MnDOT, will first provide Council with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the final design elements recommended by the VQAC. Then, Administrator Chapulis will present the Committee's recommendation regarding the landscaping of the Dellwood Drive / Excelsior Road Roundabout. The presentation will include estimated city costs related to the VQAC's recommendations.

At the conclusion of the work session, staff is seeking Council consensus on the aesthetic recommendations for the Overpass Project, whether that is concurrence with the VQAC or alterations/adjustments desired by the Council. Upon reaching a consensus, MnDOT will incorporate the aesthetic design elements into the cooperative construction agreement that will be submitted to the City for formal approval once all of the design elements of the project are finalized, which is tentative scheduled to occur in 1st quarter of 2027.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED