

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: David Chanski, City Administrator
RE: Buschmann Road Design
DATE: December 4, 2023



Project Background

Throughout the 2021 calendar year the City of Breezy Point worked with Bolton & Menk Inc. to perform a Cooperative Community Enhancement Project to explore the development and maintenance of the Buschmann Roadway Corridor. This project included a total of four cities along the corridor who would be impacted by development. Those cities were:

- The City of Breezy Point
- The City of Pequot Lakes
- The City of Jenkins
- The Township of Ideal

All four City's met to discuss undertaking a joint improvement project for the roadway but never finalized an agreement from the project. As a result of this development, the City of Breezy Point elected to move forward with improving the City's portion of the roadway up to a local standard. At Council direction a Request for Proposals (RFP) was drafted, reviewed by staff, and the engineering firm WSB was selected during the Regular Council meeting held on Monday, December 5, 2022. The Council's reasons behind moving forward with reconstruction Buschmann Road included but were not limited to:

- Failing road surface and subgrade conditions.
- Sight distance issues and significant pedestrian and motorist safety concerns.
- Increasing traffic counts.
- Inconsistent right-of-way.
- Need for stormwater management/drainage corrections.

Paul Sandy with WSB presented the preliminary design process to the City Council on January 3 and given numerous updates to the City Council and council meetings throughout the year.

During the May 5 City Council meeting, the City Council approved an amendment to the agreement with WSB to include Ideal Township as a partner in this Buschmann Road projects as approximately ½ mile of roadway is shared between the Breezy Point and Ideal Township.

On Wednesday, July 26, the City held a Community Open House presenting WSB's progress on the project. Roughly 50 people attended the event and spoke with staff and project specialists regarding ongoing and future planning. Questions focused on alignment and roadway design, intended usage of the roadway, the inclusion of a trail or other alternative pedestrian access, and the impact on adjacent property owners.

On Tuesday, October 17 the City Council received the preliminary designs for Buschmann Road during a workshop. At that time, the Council requested that Phase II of the design process be broken into two with Phase II.a bring the City through easement acquisition and Phase II.b bring the City through final design, construction document development, and bidding.

During the November 6 City Council meeting, the City Council approved moving the pursuit of \$1.8 million in grant funding through the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administer by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Phase II

Per the City Council's request, Phase II has been split into two parts as shown in the attached agreements.

The total cost for Phase II.a is \$199,120, and the total cost for Phase II.b is \$170,663 for a total cost of \$369,783. Split between the two communities based on length of roadway, the cost per community is:

- Breezy Point: \$330,421
- Ideal Township: \$39,362

These cost do not include the cost to acquire the necessary easements to complete this project.

Council Action

Staff recommends that the City Council the Phase II.a and Phase II.b proposals from WSB for Buschmann Road.

Project Communication and Documentation

Up to the date of this publication,

- 2 press releases related to Buschmann Road have been issued.
 - o July 13 and October 9
- 4 social media posts related to Buschmann Road have been published.
 - o June 7, July 12, July 27, and October 9,
- 2 City Council workshops have been conducted where city hall was a significant item on the agenda.
 - o August 1, October 17

- 5 Regular City Council meetings have contained published agenda items related to city hall.
 - o January 3, May 1, June 5, August 7, November 6
- 2 news updates related to Buschmann Road have been published to the city website.
 - o June 15, October 17
- 1 open house related to Buschmann Road has been conducted.
 - o July 26
- Direct mailers were sent to over 100 properties neighboring Buschmann Road in early July, informing them of the July 26 open house.

Additionally, staff has been maintaining and updating the Buschmann Road project page on the city website with all related documentation throughout the process. Staff publishes reminders and links to council agenda packets the week for each meeting, and staff has made use of the city hall sign to announce workshops and open houses.

The project website hosted by WSB can be found here: <https://buschmannrd-ranchettedr-wsbeng.hub.arcgis.com/>

Documents related to Buschmann Road can be found here on the City website: <https://www.breezypointmn.gov/city-projects/page/buschmann-roadway-expansion-project>