



PI/T - 10/07/2024
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Presenter:	Jason Anderson
Meeting Date:	Monday, October 7, 2024
Category:	NEW BUSINESS
Type:	ACTION
Subject:	Skunk Hollow Road
Background Information:	<p>City Public Works staff frequently receive complaints from the residents that live along North Bruce Street (Skunk Hollow Road) between County Road 35 and the City bike trail crossing north of Emerald Court. The residents complain about the dust, the “wash boarding” of the street surface, and the general lack of maintenance in their view. The residents believe that the road should be paved, and the City has been unwilling to pay the cost necessary to pave this street because the land on both sides of Skunk Hollow Road is located entirely in a designated floodway. Land located in a floodway is undevelopable, beyond temporary land uses with no structures or obstructions to flood flow allowed.</p> <p>For additional background, included in the packet is a memo and minutes from the last time this street was discussed by the City Council, on October 13, 2020. Staff provides quite a bit of background and possible alternatives and options that were considered at this time.</p> <p>At this time, city staff is looking for discussion regarding PI/T Committee thoughts about severing the connection of Skunk Hollow Road to the City, either on the south end near a point just north of the bike trail crossing or on the north end near the connection to County Road 35.</p> <p>By cutting the connection of Skunk Hollow Road to town, the traffic on the route will be drastically reduced as the route becomes a local road for the five homes along the route. A further discussion can be held regarding de-annexation of the land north of the levee. The property is undevelopable, and perhaps the land should be taken out of our city limits. At that point, we could discuss relinquishing the road to the Fairview Township.</p> <p>Pros: No longer need to frequently blade. No longer need to spend on dust control. Residents may be pleased with reduced traffic and dust.</p> <p>Cons: No longer have connectivity here between CR 33 and MN19/College Drive and US 59/Main Street. No longer receive Municipal State Aid funding for Bruce Street from E Fairview Street to CR 35 because this route was a County State Aid turnback route; loss of roughly \$25,000/year in MSAS funding (current annual funding is roughly \$970,000/year).</p> <p>No final decisions need to be made at this time. Staff is looking for PI/T Committee guidance on this topic. If PI/T Committee and staff agree, staff may reach out to property owners, Lyon County, and/or the Fairview Township to hold further discussions.</p>

Fiscal Impact:	
Alternative/ Variations:	No alternative actions recommended.
Recommendations:	Recommend staff to continue discussions of detachment of Skunk Hollow Road.