

AGENDA ITEM REPORT
PI/T COMMITTEE – 01/13/2026

Presenter:	Jason Anderson
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Category:	NEW BUSINESS
Type:	ACTION
Subject:	Review and Discuss US 59 Truck Bypass
Background Information:	<p>City staff has been asked to consider requesting a US 59 truck bypass to route heavy truck traffic around Marshall on MN 23 to CR 33. The request began as a discussion between a Planning Commission member and City Engineer over a year ago. After discussion, City staff brought forward the request to the traffic engineer’s office of MnDOT District 8. City posed the question in spring 2025 of whether it was possible to sign a truck bypass and what that process would look like.</p> <p>The response that City staff received indicated that the MnDOT traffic office did not believe that signing a US 59 truck bypass would significantly reduce truck traffic along the corridor. The shortest truck bypass would add 2.1 miles to the journey, as it would route US 59 traffic around Marshall on MN 23 and then back to US 59 on County Road 33 (screenshot below).</p> <p>Further, MnDOT traffic officials were concerned that creating a bypass route could create some confusion with the traveling public as MN 23 carries quite a bit of through truck traffic, and also additional signage at the signalized intersection of MN23/US 59 isn’t desirable. In their view, the signage may cause more disruption and confusion and the benefit just isn’t there due to the route being so much longer and less direct and intuitive.</p> <p>The purpose of discussing this item is to assist in determining the level of interest in this topic amongst City Council members. City staff believes we may have discussed this topic at a past PI/T Committee meeting, but we are not finding record of the discussion in our minutes to verify this.</p> <p>While City staff is sympathetic to the idea that there is too much truck traffic through downtown Marshall, we do understand the response from the MnDOT traffic engineers and their belief that the signing of a truck bypass will likely be ineffective at best, and may cause driver confusion at worst.</p>
Fiscal Impact:	None at this time.
Alternative/ Variations:	PI/T Committee requests further conversation with MnDOT regarding the signing of a truck bypass for US 59 through Marshall.
Recommendations:	PI/T Committee recommends no action through the MnDOT regarding this item.

