



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator

FROM: Chris Knutson, PE, Project Manager/City Engineer

CC: Matt Rynda, Public Works Director
Ken Ondich, Planning / Community Development Director

DATE: November 15, 2023

RE: 2024 Street and Utility Improvements Project
Variance Request – 1st Street SE

SEH No. NEWPR 173957 14.00

Variance Request:

First Street SE is proposed for reconstruction as part of the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project. This street is part of the City's Municipal State Aid System and is eligible for funding using MSAS funding as administered by MnDOT. Streets using this funding source are required to meet Minnesota Rules for State Aid Operation. If minimum design standards within these Rules are not met, a variance is required.

The existing street width on 1st Street SE is 30.5-feet as measured from the face of curb. MnDOT Rule 8820.9936, as shown below, requires a 2-lane street with parking on both sides to include two 10-foot wide driving lanes and two 7-foot wide parking lanes for a total width of 34-feet as measured from the face of curb.

8820.9936 MINIMUM DESIGN STANDARDS, URBAN; NEW OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

New or reconstruction projects for urban roadways without a designated on-road bicycle facility must meet or exceed the minimum dimensions indicated in the following design chart.

Projected Traffic Volume	Design Speed	Lane Width (a)	Curb Reaction Distance (c)	Parking Lane Width (e)
	mph	feet	feet	feet
ADT < 10,000	30-45	(b) 10-11	1-2 (d)	7-8
	50 or over	11-12	2	8-10
ADT ≥ 10,000	30-35	(b) 10-11	1-2 (d)	7-10
	40-45	11-12	1-4	7-10
	50 or over	11-12	2-4	Not allowed

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., 11 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200, Mankato, MN 56001-7710

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First Street SE is an MSAS roadway between Lexington Avenue S and 10th Avenue SE. The west block that is proposed for full reconstruction is within a residential neighborhood while the remaining portion of the street is within a commercial corridor. It is the desire of City staff to maintain the reconstructed block within the residential neighborhood at its current width for multiple reasons:

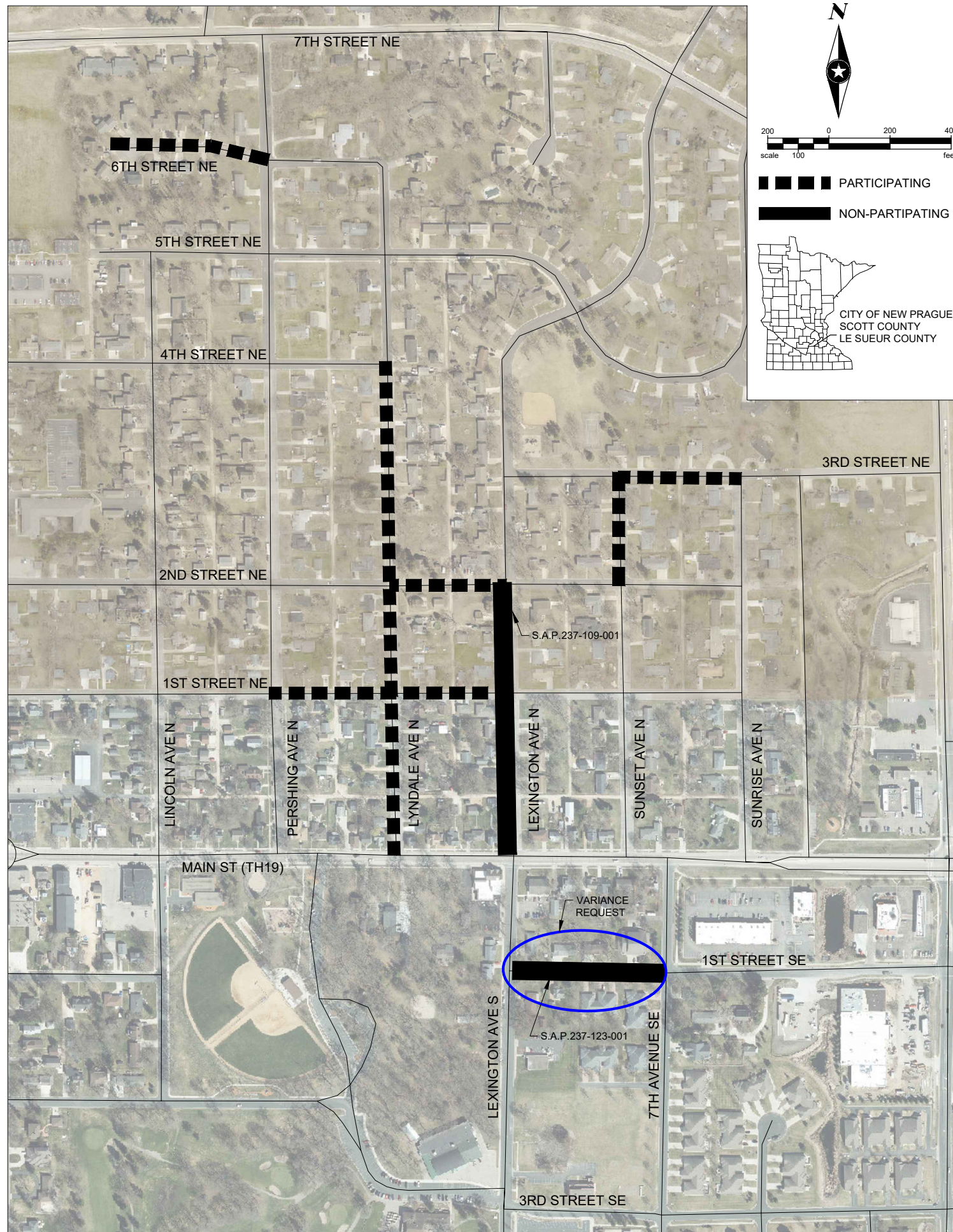
1. The existing street width is 30.5-feet as measured from face-of-curb and has adequately provided parking for residents and traffic flow.
2. The proposed street is proposed to be shifted approximately 2-feet north to match the existing street one block to the east.
3. It is proposed to construct a 5-foot wide sidewalk along south side of the street where there currently is not one and will provide connection to the sidewalk also being added to the block to the east which connects to a commercial zoned area.
4. The street parallels Minnesota Trunk Highway 19 and receives primarily local residential traffic. The remaining part of the street east of 7th Avenue SE is wider and has truck traffic that primarily access from either 7th Avenue SE or 10th Avenue SE.
5. City planning and public works do not want to encourage additional truck traffic on to this street by widening it. Adjacent streets are more suitable for this purpose.
6. Widening the pavement an additional 3.5-feet will negatively impact adjacent properties which will experience a loss of yard due to the shifted roadway on the north side and the new 5-foot wide sidewalk on the south side.

The variance request is due to MnDOT on November 22nd for consideration at the December 14th committee meeting and requires a resolution.

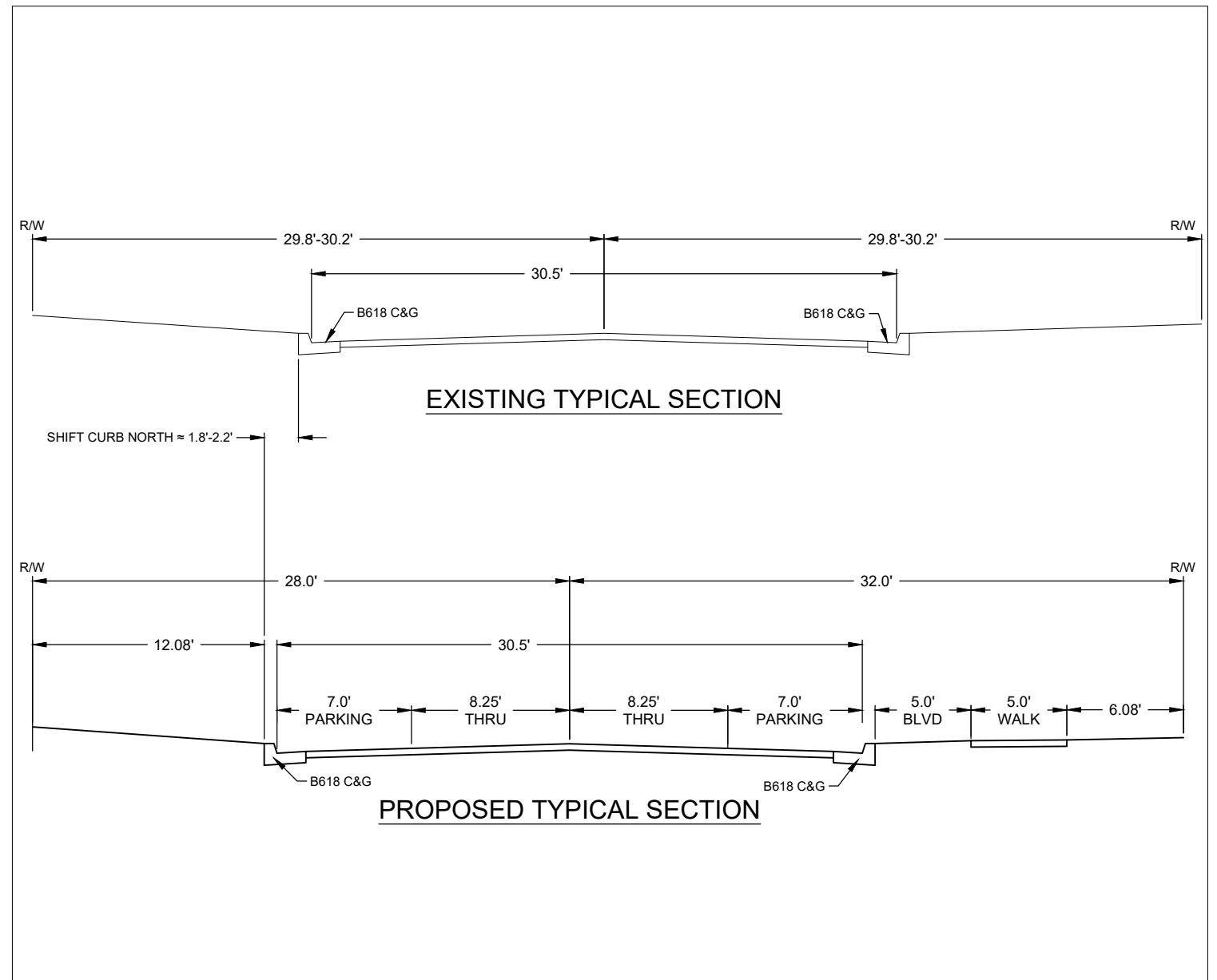
Staff/Engineer Recommendation


Staff and SEH recommend that the City Council approve the attached Resolution requesting Variance from Standard for State Aid Operation for Project NO. S.A.P. 237-123-001.

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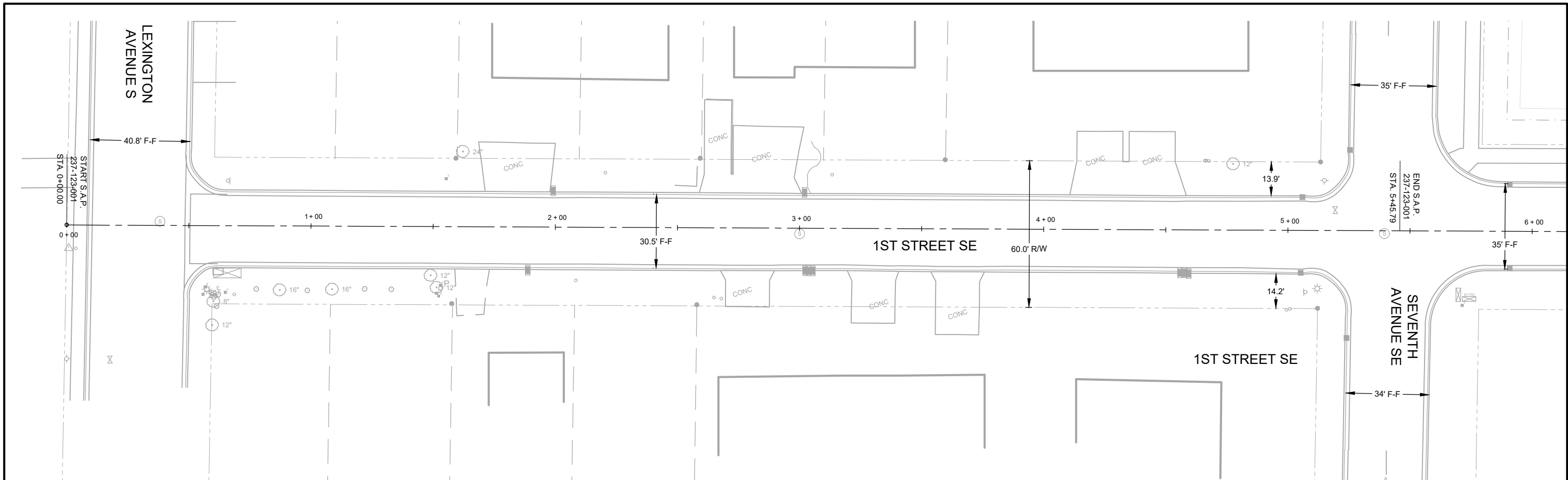


PROJECT LOCATION MAP

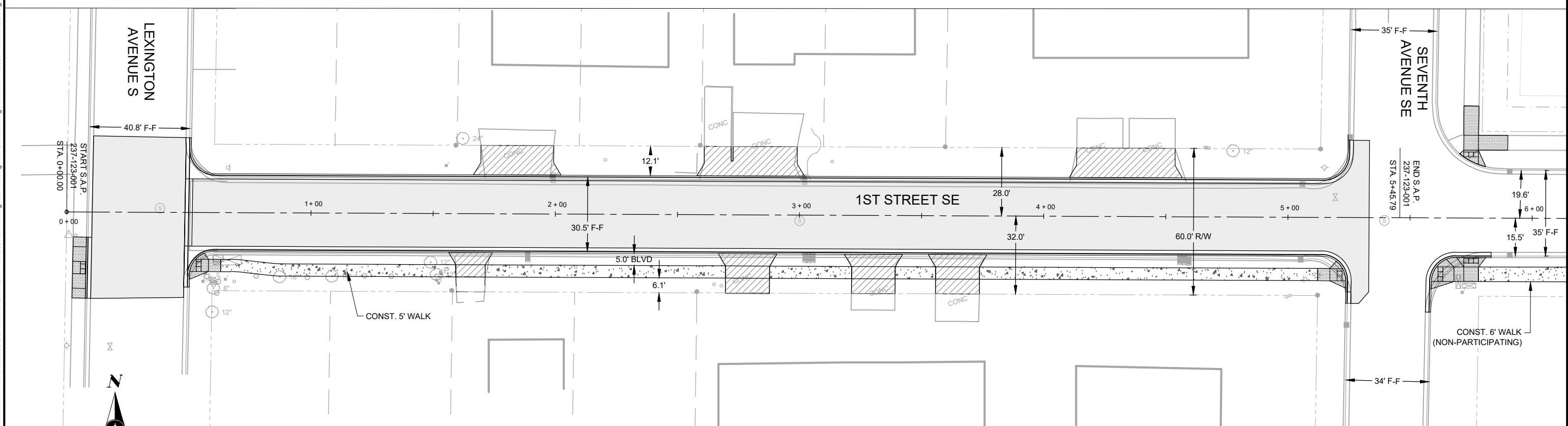


	PROJECT NO. NEWPR 173957	VARIANCE REQUEST 2024 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS S.A.P. 237-123-001	FIGURE NO. 1
	DATE: 11/15/23		

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EXISTING CONDITION



PROPOSED CONDITION



	PROJECT NO. NEWPR 173957	VARIANCE REQUEST 2024 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS S.A.P. 237-123-001	FIGURE NO. 2
	DATE: 11/15/23		