

Jesse Farrell, PE
Director of Public Works / City Engineer

651.204.6050 Phone
Jesse.Farrell@cityvadnaisheights.com



7F
The City of Vadnais Heights
800 East County Road E
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Memorandum:

TO: Mayor Krachmer and City Council Members
FROM: Jesse Farrell, Director of Public Works / City Engineer
DATE: February 21, 2023
SUBJECT: 2023-05 Twin Lake Boulevard State Aid Variance Request

Recommended Council Action

Approve a resolution requesting a variance from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Improvement 2023-05 Twin Lake Boulevard.

Background

In partnership with the City of Little Canada, the City of Vadnais Heights continues to plan for proposed improvements to Twin Lake Boulevard in 2023.

The final design of roadway and trail improvements required a delicate approach to balancing cost, private property impacts, wetland and floodplain impacts, all while staying with the design constraints of the Minnesota State Aid Rules.

Per Minnesota State Aid Rules 8820.9995, a bituminous shared-use path located at back of curb must be 10' wide. The existing roadway constraints make this very difficult to achieve.

In order to avoid extensive private property impacts, wetland and floodplain impacts, and keep the project affordable, project staff is recommending a variance that would allow for an 8' wide bituminous shared-use path located at back of curb.

In order to obtain a variance from Minnesota State Aid, each City must pass a resolution authorizing the variance request. Then, project staff will bundle all necessary variance documentation and submit to Minnesota State Aid for review and consideration by the Variance Advisory Committee.

If the variance request is denied, the shared-use trail would likely need to be converted to an 8' concrete sidewalk.

I will attend the February 21, 2023 City Council meeting to further discuss this matter with you. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Attachments:

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-02-_____

**CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A VARIANCE FROM STANDARD FOR STATE AID
OPERATION FOR PROJECT NO. SAP 209-110-001 (TWIN LAKE BLVD)**

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 23-01-018 entering into a Cooperative & Maintenance Agreement with the City of Little Canada for improvements to Twin Lake Boulevard, SAP 209-110-001 (Vadnais Heights) and SAP 200-115-001 (Little Canada); and

WHEREAS, the City of Little Canada is the lead agency for the project and contracted with Bolton & Menk to perform preliminary and final engineering for the project including preparation of feasibility reports and final design; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rules for State Aid Operation 8820.9935 require a 2' clear zone on each side of an 8' shared-use path; and

WHEREAS, the reasons for this variance request include topographic constraints, right-of-way constraints, natural resources and wetland impacts, floodplain impacts, and construct cost impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County, Minnesota hereby requests a variance from the Minnesota Department of Transportation State Aid Operations Rules Chapter 8820.9935 (Minimum Off-Road Shared Use Path Standards) to allow a 0' clear zone in lieu of a 2' clear zone on the road side of the shared-use path; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County, Minnesota hereby indemnifies, saves and hold harmless the State of Minnesota and its agents and employees of and from claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising out of or by reason of Twin Lake Boulevard Improvements in accordance with Minnesota Rules 8820.9935 and further agrees to defend at their sole cost and expense any action or proceeding commenced for the purpose of asserting any claim arising as a result of the granting of this variance.

This Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted and was signed by the Mayor and attested to by the City Administrator this 21st day of February, 2023.

Attest:

Mike Krachmer, Mayor

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

(SEAL)