



Title:	Authorization to Proceed with Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Feasibility
Resolution number:	22-050
Prepared by:	Gabriel Sherman Phone: (952) 641-4510 gsherman@minnehahacreek.org
Reviewed by:	Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager
Recommended action:	The Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Stantec to conduct feasibility for the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank project.
Schedule:	Summer – Fall 2022: Feasibility Fall 2022 – Winter 2022/2023: Partnership agreements Spring – Winter 2023/2024: Design Spring/Summer 2024: Construction start
Budget considerations:	Fund name and code: Planning & Projects, Engineering 2002-4340 Fund budget: \$222,500 Expenditures to date: \$17,940.10 Requested amount of funding: \$27,280 (\$24,800 + 10% contingency)
Past Board action:	Res # 12-080 Authorization to Enter into Contract with Wenck to Perform Urban Corridor Planning Res # 12-106 Authorization to Submit Prepared Comments on the Southwest Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to Hennepin County Res # 14-009 Adopt Policy Framework “In Pursuit of a Balanced Urban Ecology in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed” to Guide Future Planning and District Initiatives Res # 15-084 Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Professional Instruments Company for Cooperative Planning at 7800 Powell Road, Hopkins, MN

Summary:

Background

Since 2009, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) has worked with municipal and private partners on a series of projects in the highly urbanized corridor between West 34th Street and Meadowbrook Lake to address downstream water quality and quantity issues, lack of recreational access to Minnehaha Creek, and catalyze economic development. A conceptual design for the Minnehaha Creek Greenway encompassing these projects and identifying future projects in the corridor was developed in 2012, and the partnership approach to these projects was distilled into the Balanced Urban Ecology policy adopted by the Board in 2014. With the 325 Blake Road Restoration and

Redevelopment underway, the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank project represents the remaining gap in the network of trails and greenspace.

This project will bring the Greenway trail under the newly constructed SWLRT corridor, creating the final trail connection between the Minnehaha Creek Preserve and the Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail by 325 Blake Road. With the completion of this project and 325 Blake Road, uninterrupted pedestrian infrastructure along Minnehaha Creek will exist between Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park and Cottageville Park in Hopkins. This project also provides an opportunity to stabilize the streambanks and enhance the riparian zone of the stretch of Minnehaha Creek between 325 Blake Road and the Minnehaha Creek Preserve.

Initial feasibility work was conducted in 2015/2016 by Wenck (now Stantec) and resulted in two potential trail alignments between Minnehaha Creek Preserve and the Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail. Since that time, significant construction of the SWLRT has occurred and as-built grades and elevations, as well as the current stream and riparian condition, will need to be reassessed before MCWD scopes and budgets for final project design and construction. During the same period, partnerships were also established with St. Louis Park, Metropolitan Council, and the private property owners along this stretch of Minnehaha Creek to allow for the integration of the trail into the existing and future urban fabric. While these partnerships form a strong basis for advancing this work in 2022 and beyond, an updated feasibility study will provide a foundation for MCWD to formalize these partnerships based on current project needs.

Scope of Work, Budget, and Schedule

Stantec has proposed a scope of work to update the prior feasibility work, confirm the viability of the proposed trail alignments based on current conditions, and assess the opportunities for ecological enhancement of Minnehaha Creek. The scope of work is organized under two major tasks. A detailed scope, budget, and schedule is attached.

- **Task 1: Site Investigation** – Stantec will complete a site investigation to collect topographic survey data, tree survey information, and a site walkthrough with MCWD staff.
- **Task 2: Updated Schematic Design** – Stantec will update the previously developed schematic trail designs to incorporate data collected in Task 1 and will contract with Inter-Fluve to identify pre-concept level channel modifications to the schematic designs.

Stantec's and Inter-Fluve's tasks are expected to take about two months to complete following contract execution and Notice to Proceed. Concurrently with these consultant-driven tasks, MCWD staff will coordinate with project partners and private landowners abutting the project to ensure that feasibility accounts for these stakeholders' preferences. The proposed fee to carry out this scope of work is \$24,800.

August 11, 2022 MCWD Board Meeting

At the August 11, 2022 MCWD Board Meeting, staff will seek authorization for the Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Stantec for \$24,800, and authorization for the Administrator to issue change orders in the amount of 10% of the contract value. Staff has assessed that Stantec is uniquely qualified to conduct this work based on Stantec's unique knowledge of the project due to their previous 2015/2016 feasibility work, prior analysis of Minnehaha Creek crossings from Highway 169 to Excelsior Blvd (including hydraulic and elevation analysis of the SWLRT crossing), and existing relationships with adjacent property owners, St. Louis Park planning and engineering staff, and SWLRT project staff.

Attachments:

- Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration – Updated Feasibility Scope of Work and Budget



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 22-050

Title: Authorization to Proceed with Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Feasibility

- WHEREAS on March 27, 2014, the Board of Managers adopted a policy “In Pursuit of a Balanced Urban Ecology in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District” to guide the MCWD’s planning and watershed management activities, integrating its water resource implementation efforts with urban planning, through innovation, partnership and a sustained geographic focus;
- WHEREAS the Minnehaha Creek/Lake Hiawatha Total Maximum Daily Load Study identified the area between West 34th Street and Meadowbrook Lake as generating the highest pollutant load per unit area when compared to other reaches of Minnehaha Creek;
- WHEREAS the District has identified the area between West 36th Street and Meadowbrook Lake as a priority area for capital improvements focused on stormwater management, greenspace expansion and increased recreational access;
- WHEREAS working with the Cities of St. Louis Park and Hopkins, and with other public and private partners, the District has implemented a series of initiatives to restore, enhance and connect Minnehaha Creek and its associated riparian areas;
- WHEREAS the District has been coordinating with the SWLRT Project Office with respect to the integration of public transit, development and water resource management interests, including for the purpose of informing design as to a critical pedestrian crossing at Minnehaha Creek and SWLRT that is part of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway conceptual plan;
- WHEREAS on October 8, 2015, the Board of Managers authorized the District to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Professional Instruments Company which documented mutual goals and established a cooperative framework within which the potential for a beneficial collaboration may be explored;
- WHEREAS in 2015/2016, Stantec Consulting Service Inc. (Stantec), previously Wenck Associates, Inc., completed initial feasibility work to determine potential alignments for a trail connection between the Minnehaha Creek Preserve and the Cedar Lake LRT Regional under the SWLRT, freight rail, and regional trail bridges in St. Louis Park;
- WHEREAS significant construction on the SWLRT has occurred since the 2015/2016 feasibility work was conducted, including construction of the bridges over Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park;
- WHEREAS in December 2021, Interfluve conducted a bathymetric survey of Minnehaha Creek from the 325 Blake Road project bounds to the Minnehaha Creek Preserve;
- WHEREAS an updated feasibility study, including site investigation and schematic design, is necessary to finalize a preferred trail alignment and assess opportunities for stabilization and enhancement of Minnehaha Creek and its riparian zone and advance the project into full design and construction;

WHEREAS Stantec has submitted a scope of work to perform an updated feasibility study, which District staff has reviewed and determined to be sound and appropriate;

WHEREAS the District Governance Manual, Policy #6: Executive Limitations, provides that the District Administrator may not contract for professional services in excess of \$25,000 without obtaining competitive quotes or bids;

WHEREAS the proposed contract amount does not meet this threshold, but is very close to it, and so it is appropriate to consider whether competitive pricing should be considered before authorizing the Administrator to contract with Stantec for the work; and

WHEREAS staff recommends, and the Board finds, that competitive pricing is not warranted, in that Stantec is uniquely qualified to conduct this work, on the basis of its performance of the 2015/2016 feasibility work; its familiarity of topographic and hydraulic conditions based on prior analysis of Minnehaha Creek crossings from Highway 169 to Excelsior Boulevard (including a hydraulic and elevation analysis of the SWLRT crossing); and its existing working relationships with adjacent property owners, St. Louis Park planning and engineering staff, and SWLRT project staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to enter into a contract with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. to conduct a feasibility study for the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration project, in an amount not to exceed \$24,800, and further authorizes the Administrator to execute change orders in his discretion up to an additional 10% of this fee.

Resolution Number 22- 050 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 8/11/2022

Secretary Date: _____



Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

7500 Olson Memorial Highway
Suite 300
Golden Valley MN 55427-4886

August 1, 2022

Gabe Sherman

15320 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Dear Gabe Sherman,

Reference: Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration - Updated Feasibility

Background

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) is pleased to submit a scope of work and schedule to an updated feasibility study to progress design for the proposed trail between the Cedar Lake Trail and Meadowbrook Road in St. Louis Park. This work will build off the concept design completed in 2015/2016 and will account for construction progress and changes to the original design at the light rail site. This scope plans to progress both previously identified trail alignments, with the goal of recommending one alignment for progression through final design. Additionally, Stantec will partner with Inter-Fluve to identify channel stabilization and stream habitat improvement opportunities between the 325 Blake Road North site and Meadowbrook Road.

Stantec proposes the following tasks to complete the project:

- Task 1 Site Investigation
- Task 2 Updated Schematic Design

Task 1 Site Investigation

Stantec will complete a site investigation to collect topographic survey data, tree survey information, and a site walkthrough with MCWD staff.

Topographic survey information collected will include:

- Collect sufficient elevation data to generate surface contours at a 1' contour interval across the subject parcels along the Creek including along the proposed trail corridor and the potential work extents for bank stabilization and riparian restoration efforts (PIDs: 2011721230003, 2011721230004, 2011721120039, 2011721120001, 2011721230018, 2011721230017, 2011721230016, 2011721230015, 2011721230014, 2011721230001, 1911721110121, 1911721140002, 20117213022), extending to the east side of the bridge on Oxford St./Meadowbrook Road and extending 25' onto adjoining parcels (PIDs: 2011721230022, 2011721230021, 2011721230025, 2011721240001, 2011721240008, 2011721240002).
- Locate the top of the bank of Minnehaha Creek
- Establish elevations on the top of railroad tracks
- Survey bridges

Reference: Southwest Light Rail Trail Connection - Updated Feasibility

- Establish a project benchmark on site referenced to NAVD88 datum
- Locate public utility lines marked as result of a Gopher State One call and based on visible above ground evidence, including the watermain that crosses Minnehaha Creek near 7845 Edgebrook.
- Prepare a topographic survey map depicting approximate property lines, one foot ground contours and public utility lines and utility structures.

Tree survey information collected will include:

- Tree species, condition (live vs. dead), location, and diameter at breast height (DBH, defined as 4.5 ft off the ground) of all trees with diameters greater than 6-inches within the proposed trail alignments and proposed construction access routes. All trees with diameters greater than 6-inches will be tagged.

Outcomes:

- Current site information to inform trail alignment feasibility.

Assumptions:

- MCWD staff will coordinate site access permissions with all necessary property owners, including through rail corridors.
- In coordination with the City of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, MCWD will provide utility data (i.e. GIS shapefiles) for reference.
- Survey completed by Stantec will not include bathymetric / cross sectional information of Minnehaha Creek, as this data was collected by Inter-Fluve in December 2021. Surveys will be integrated to ensure they are on the same datum.
- Soil borings and wetland delineation will be completed as part of 30% design

Deliverables and meetings:

- One on-site walkthrough with MCWD staff, including PDF of field notes.
- Topographic survey map, including trees identified during tree survey (CAD format).
- Tree survey data in spreadsheet format.

Task 2 Updated Schematic Design

Stantec will update the previously developed schematic trail designs to incorporate data collected in Task 1 and will contract with Inter-Fluve to identify pre-concept level channel modifications to the schematic designs. See attached for the scope of work that will be provided by Inter-Fluve.

This task will consider both physical constraints and landowner / stakeholder input. An updated set of concept feasibility drawings will be prepared, which will include both the trail and the preliminary recommendations identified by Inter-Fluve. An updated concept-level opinion of probable cost will be prepared. A technical memorandum will be prepared to summarize key design considerations and

Reference: Southwest Light Rail Trail Connection - Updated Feasibility

modifications, identify permitting needs, opinion of probable cost for both alignments, and provide recommendations for trail alignment selection based on technical information and stakeholder input.

Outcomes:

- Confirm continued feasibility of both previously developed trail alignments.

Assumptions:

- Two trail alignments will be carried through the updated feasibility study.
- MCWD will facilitate all stakeholder communication (including private landowners on / adjacent to the project site) and will relay critical information to Stantec.
- Wetland mitigation and design is not included in this proposal.
- MCWD will develop agendas and minutes for all meetings

Deliverables and meetings:

- Technical Memorandum, as described above, including opinion of probable cost for two alignments
- Electronic copy of schematic design option figures (one 11x17 in PDF of each alignment option)
- One (1) schematic design meeting with MCWD (to be attended by Stantec and Inter-Fluve)
- One (1) meeting with project partners, to facilitate review of preliminary findings and provide technical support to answer questions, to be led by MCWD (to be attended by Stantec)

Fee Estimate

Scope of Work	Fee Estimate		
	Stantec	Inter-Fluve	Total
Task 1 – Site Investigation	\$9,000	--	\$9,000
Task 2 – Updated Schematic Design	\$10,400	\$5,400	\$15,800
Total	\$19,400	\$5,400	\$24,800

The total cost above includes all reimbursable expenses including mileage, printing, and equipment costs.

Reference: Southwest Light Rail Trail Connection - Updated Feasibility

Schedule

Task 1 – We are prepared to complete the site investigation within 3 weeks of receiving a Notice to Proceed and notification of site access rights. We recommend completion of the tree survey during the growing season to ensure the most accurate species identification.

Task 2 – Updates to the schematic design will occur after the site investigation concludes and are expected to take approximately six (6) weeks.

Summary

Stantec is excited to move this extension of the Greenway trail forward. Our work will be completed in accordance with noted scope above along with our Master Services Agreement with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Sincerely,

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.



Chris Meehan, PE

Senior Principal, Water Resources Engineer
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Rena Weis, EIT

Water Resources Engineer In Training
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Attachment: Inter-Fluve Scope of Work and Fee Estimate



August 1, 2022

Chris Meehan
Senior Principal
Stantec
christopher.meehan@stantec.com

Re: Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration

Dear Chris,

We are happy to help Stantec and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) with a small project to complete a preliminary assessment of the reach of the Minnehaha Creek between the downstream limit of the Blake Road project, and the upstream limit of The Preserve, in Hopkins MN, and to provide pre-conceptual recommendations as it pertains to creek and habitat function.

We understand that this reach of the Minnehaha Creek will be the subject of a future project to connect the trails along the creek from the Blake Road development downstream to The Preserve. There are several bridge crossings within this reach, and very little room to move the creek, so we understand that the scope of this effort should be limited to assessment of conceptual options to improve the creek system within its existing footprint.

Below is a proposed scope of services and an associated fee to complete a preliminary site walk and propose a planimetric pre-conceptual site sketch with recommendations to improve creek function, habitat availability, and habitat complexity within the reach. This will include an assessment of existing bank conditions and recommendations for aquatic, riparian, and adjacent upland areas.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with requested scope edits or additional task requests such that the effort best corresponds with the current needs of the MCWD.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maren Hancock".

Maren Hancock, PE
Regional Director and Senior Water Resources Engineer
Inter-Fluve, Inc.
mhancock@interfluve.com

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Geomorphic Preliminary Site Assessment

Inter-Fluve will complete a preliminary site assessment to review the geomorphic condition and habitat value and features throughout the approximately 0.5-mile-reach during a site visit. This effort will document general geomorphic conditions and will include evaluation of geomorphic indicators in the channel and floodplain, vegetation conditions and coverage, bank conditions, and general availability and complexity of habitat features. In areas with eroded banks, we will note soil textures, erosion area dimensions, and recession rate indicators. Findings will be documented in field notes. Photo documentation of findings will be included.

Deliverables (Task 1):

- Field notes (PDF format)

Assumptions (Task 1):

- MCWD will provide access coordination for the assessment
- This is a preliminary site assessment only. Only general preliminary measurements and site notes will be documented.

Task 2: Develop Planimetric Pre-Conceptual Site Sketch with Preliminary Recommendations

Inter-Fluve will develop a planimetric site sketch on aerial imagery noting preliminary recommendations for improving creek and habitat function within the subject project area. The sketch will include minimal planimetric line work and callouts for proposed improvements. We will also include a high level opinion of construction costs.

Based on our familiarity with the site, we anticipate that proposed improvements may include:

- Habitat features such as boulders or rock riffle material
- Bank stabilization or repair
- Riparian or upland plantings

Deliverables:

- Planimetric Pre-Conceptual Site Sketch (2 pages)
- High level opinion of construction cost

Assumptions (Task 2):

- Recommendations will be based on site observations only (no modeling or design analysis.)

Task 3: Meet with Stantec and MCWD to Review Recommendations

We have included time for 1 of our staff to meet virtually with Stantec and the MCWD to review the findings and recommendations.

PROPOSED FEE

\$5,400

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

We anticipate this effort to take 2-4 weeks depending on start date. We will be able to fit this project into our workload at any point over the course of the next year. We recommend completion of Task 1 before the middle of October 2022 to allow for observation of vegetated riparian conditions.