

BEMIDJI CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Agenda

Monday, March 28, 2016

**City Hall
Conference Room
5:30 P.M.**



1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

2. GIS MAPPING UPDATES – BRETT CASE

3. RAILROAD CORRIDOR – MITCH RAUTIO

4. OLD MIDWAY DRIVE TRAIL BRIDGE – DISCUSS LEGACY FUNDING
OPTIONS – CRAIG GRAY

5. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: All cellular telephones, pagers and BlackBerry devices to be switched to a non-audible function during Council and Committee meetings.

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM



Meeting Date: March 28, 2016 Work Session

Action Requested: Old Midway Drive Trail Bridge

Prepared By: Craig Gray, City Engineer *CG*

Reviewed By: Nate Mathews, City Manager *Nate*

Background:

On Monday, March 21 I received the attached letter from MnDOT regarding the city's Old Midway Drive Bridge. This bridge is listed on the National Register as a historic structure and it currently functions as a trail bridge over the Mississippi River. It is classified as structurally deficient. MnDOT needs to know by April 1 if we wish to have a 2017 Legacy application submitted for the bridge project.

MnDOT has contracted with a consulting firm, LHB, Inc., to research, study and create opportunities for funding of locally owned historic bridges. As part of that task, MnDOT wants to apply for Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage (Legacy) Grants for up to five historic bridges in Minnesota. The city's Midway Drive bridge has been identified by LHB and MnDOT as a structure that would be a candidate for preparation of a Legacy Grant application. The grant application would be prepared, on behalf of the city, by LHB and there would be no cost to us, as the grant application costs are being paid for by MnDOT.

There are two options for the grant application:

1. Submit an application for 2017 construction dollars. The estimated cost for the historical rehab of the bridge is \$950,000. It is doubtful that the Legacy grant would award more than \$300,000. No funding source exists for the remaining \$650,000.
2. Submit a Legacy grant application for 2017 design and plan preparation. In this case, LHB feels that we could have a consultant review and redesign the existing project plans and see if the project could be modified to lower the construction cost by minimizing some of the historical aspects. Focus on a design that stabilizes the bridge so that the risk of losing the resource is lessened. Estimated Legacy grant application of about \$80,000-\$100,000. Future Legacy dollars could be applied for to assist in future construction costs (2018/2019).

However, Lisa Karlgaard, LHB Engineer, notes in her 3/17 email to me that there is already a Legacy application in from the City for the Carnegie Library. They feel that it is unlikely that the Minnesota Historical Society would award funds to two projects in the same city. In effect the projects would be competing against each other. The city council should discuss whether or not they wish to have LHB/MnDOT proceed with a 2017 Legacy application for the bridge.

History of Bridge Project

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 7, 2008 | City applied for Transportation Enhancement Funds for historic rehab of bridge. Estimated project cost of \$350,000 |
| March 21, 2008 | City awarded \$90,000 of transportation enhancement funds for a 2012 construction project. |
| February 17, 2009 | City hired WSN to prepare plans and specifications for project. |
| November 2, 2009 | Mead & Hunt selected by the State Historian for historical design collaboration with WSN. |
| November 2010 | District 2 ATP increases federal funding to \$160,000. |
| April 4, 2011 | Federal enhancement share increased to \$244,000. |
| May, 2011 | Project design complete, permits received and project out for bids. |
| July 5, 2011 | Contractor bids presented to the city council for the bridge rehabilitation project. Low bid was \$495,000. Total project cost estimated at \$585,000. 6-1 vote the city council rejected all the bids. |
| January 2014 | MnDOT contracts with Mead & Hunt to complete a management plan for statewide historic bridges. Mead & Hunt estimates City of Bemidji bridge rehab costs at \$500,000-\$950,000. |
| May 18, 2015 | MnDOT asks if city would be interested in having MnDOT apply for a federal TIGER grant for the bridge. Estimated local match of \$190,000. Council elected not to proceed due to absence of local funds. |



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March 18, 2016

Craig Gray
City of Bemidji Director of Public Works
1351 5th Street NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

**LOCAL HISTORIC BRIDGE STUDY – PHASE III
LEGACY GRANT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE**

I am writing this letter on behalf of the MnDOT State Aid Office, sponsor of Phase III of MnDOT’s Local Historic Bridge Study which is currently underway. A focus of this phase of the study is to research, study and create opportunities for funding of locally owned historic bridges. As part of that task, it is desired to apply for Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage (Legacy) Grants for up to 5 bridges.

Legacy Grants are administered and distributed by the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) to fund historic projects for all types of structures and purposes such as buildings, bridges, monuments, historic research, and archiving. Annually, \$6 million is distributed to owners of historic properties. For full details on Legacy Grants see the MNHS website at <http://legacy.mnhs.org/grants>.

In order for a historic bridge to receive a grant, it must be eligible for or listed on the National Register (with priority given to listed structures). Construction projects must be completed within 2 fiscal years of award of the grant and design projects must be completed within 1 fiscal year of award. There is no match required in order to receive a grant, however it is highly encouraged as it shows community support of the project. The property must also be open to or highly visible to the public, among other criterion.

The current list of local historic bridges was reviewed and Legacy Grant application candidates were chosen based upon their status of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as being classified as needing preservation work within the next 10 years (as categorized during Phase II of the Local Historic Bridge Study.

| Bridge No. | Location | Owner Name | Est. Stab. & Preserv. Cost | Est. Prelim. & Final Design Cost | Est. CA Cost | Est. Total Cost | Historic Status |
|------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2366 | Old Midway Drive over Mississippi River | City of Bemidji | -- | -- | -- | \$950,000 | Listed on NR |
| | | | | | | | |

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 701 Washington Avenue North, Suite 200 | Minneapolis, MN 55401 | 612.338.2029
 200 Third Avenue Northeast, Suite 100 | Cambridge, MN 55008 | 763.689.4042
 63 East Second Street, Suite 150 | Superior, WI 54880 | 715.392.2902

Craig Gray

From: Lisa Karlgaard <Lisa.Karlgaard@lhbcorp.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 5:03 PM
To: Craig Gray
Subject: Legacy Grant Application Assistance – 2366
Attachments: 2016-03-17 Legacy Grant Interest Letter - City of Bemidji 2366.pdf

Craig

Please see the attached letter. Phase III of the Local Historic Bridge Study includes scope for assisting a select number of local owners with the preparation of Legacy Grant applications as an approach to pursuing alternate funds for local historic bridges.

We spoke a few months back and you stated you were interested in pursuing an application. Since that time, I have spoken with MNHS and they have given me some additional information that I would like to discuss with you. Particularly that there is a competing application for a Library in Bemidji and that it is unlikely that they would award money to two large projects in the same city as they like to spread their money throughout the state. There are other options you can look at, however so we can chat about that when you have time.

If you are still interested in being considered or would like additional information you may reply directly to me or any other contact listed at the end of the letter. A hard copy of the letter will also be mailed to you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa M. Karlgaard, PE –Structural Senior Engineer
21 West Superior Street, Suite 500, Duluth, MN 55802
Direct 218.279.2486 | Cell 218.340.3074
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LHB, Inc. | PERFORMANCE DRIVEN DESIGN.

Craig Gray

From: Lisa Karlgaard <Lisa.Karlgaard@lhbcorp.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 12:46 PM
To: Craig Gray
Subject: RE: Legacy Grant Application Assistance – 2366

As I understand it, here are the scenarios that may apply to your project. Keep in mind that the largest grant that has ever been awarded is \$300,000. MNHS likes to spread out the funds throughout the state each round. This amount would not complete the project as scoped, so you would need to find other sources to get to your total construction cost collected. Alternatively, you could reduce the scope by re-working the plans to a level that stabilizes the bridge so that the risk of losing the resource is lessened. So, you could:

1. Apply for Legacy Grants to do the construction as planned in the current plan set. You would need to find other sources of funding to get you to the estimated construction cost as you shouldn't anticipate receiving more than \$300K. You would have 2 fiscal years to complete the construction (by June 30, 2019).
2. Apply For Legacy Grants to update the plans to a reduced scope that stabilizes the structure. No match is required. Within the application you would outline the sequencing of your project (i.e. phase one being design, plan approval and specs and phase two being construction). You would have 1 fiscal year to complete the plans (by June 30, 2018).
 - a. The next year you could again apply for legacy funding to complete the construction phase of the stabilization project.

Let me know if you have any other questions as you prepare to discuss with City Council.

Lisa M. Karlgaard, PE –Structural Senior Engineer
21 West Superior Street, Suite 500, Duluth, MN 55802
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From: Craig Gray [mailto:craig.gray@ci.bemidji.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Lisa Karlgaard <Lisa.Karlgaard@lhbcorp.com>
Subject: RE: Legacy Grant Application Assistance – 2366

Also, what year(s) are we talking about for the Legacy funds ? Design in 2016 and construction in 2017 if awarded ? Legacy would pay for 100% of construction costs I think you said. What about design costs ? Are those a local responsibility ?

Craig Gray, P.E. | Director of Public Works/City Engineer | City of Bemidji
218-333-1851 | craig.gray@ci.bemidji.mn.us

From: Lisa Karlgaard [mailto:Lisa.Karlgaard@lhbcorp.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 12:14 PM
To: Craig Gray <craig.gray@ci.bemidji.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Legacy Grant Application Assistance – 2366

Hello