



Department of Public Works
Infrastructure Services Division

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May 2, 2011

Mr. James Keegan
Chief of Park Planning and Policy
Milwaukee County Parks
9480 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Attention: Mr. Jim Ciha

Subject: Project I.D. 2025-16-70
West Capitol Drive Bridge over a
Branch of the Menomonee River

Dear Mr. Keegan:

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification of proposed work to be done in conjunction with the subject project. You were informed of our intent to construct a multi-use path under the subject bridge initially when Mr. Ciha, of your staff, met with City of Milwaukee representatives in April 2010. A letter dated October 6, 2010 was sent to you with more detailed information on the proposed bridge design. From subsequent meetings and conversations with Jim Ciha, we understand that we must provide the County with our preliminary bridge plan, including right-of-way (ROW) requirements. These documents are enclosed with this letter. We also address the issues of funding, maintenance, and site restoration in this letter.

As part of the environmental requirements on Federal/State funded projects, any public lands that may be impacted by the project are subject to 4(f) regulations. To that end, we are requesting a "Statement of Significance" and concurrence of the proposed project by the Milwaukee County Parks Department. Several issues have been addressed in order to meet your requests. These are covered below:

Right-of-Way Requirements

Enclosed with this letter, please find a preliminary acquisition plat for the TLE (Temporary Limited Easement) and the PLE (Permanent Limited Easement) requirements related to the bridge project. The TLE's are needed in order for construction equipment to access the area of bridge construction in the public ROW, to re-grade the area, restore vegetation that is disturbed during construction, and to construct the proposed multi-use path including slope and grade changes. Once construction is complete, the multi-use path will be under the ownership of the Milwaukee County Parks Department.

The PLE's are needed in order for the City of Milwaukee to retain easements for future maintenance on the rip-rap slope and the proposed retaining wall (east side of multi-use path) north and south of the bridge.

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Funding

The bridge structure project is funded 100 percent by Federal/State monies. However, the State is not willing to pay 100 percent toward construction of the multi-use path. They have agreed to pay 80 percent, with the remaining 20 percent to be paid with Local monies. Wauwatosa has agreed to pay 20 percent construction cost of the entire path, lying both in Wauwatosa and the city of Milwaukee. Following the guidelines in the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Facilities Development Manual, the current design calls for a 10-foot wide (14-foot under the bridge) multi-use path constructed of five-inch concrete (figure 10.4 enclosed). The County has requested concrete be used in construction of the path due to anticipated flooding of the path.

Maintenance

Future maintenance of the multi-use path, both under the bridge structure and to the north and south of the structure, located on County land, is to be performed by the Milwaukee County Parks Department. Maintenance of the bridge structure, retaining walls, and rip-rap slopes will be provided by the City of Milwaukee.

Tree Removal and Site Restoration

As part of the proposed project, it is anticipated that the following trees over six inches in diameter will be removed (see enclosed tree removal plan):

Nine (9) Box Elders (6 inch – 10 inch)
Three (3) Willows (24 inch, 26 inch and 36 inch)
Two (2) Flowering Crabs (10 inch and 16 inch)
One (1) Ash (6 inch)

Tall field grasses and wildflowers were also noted in the area. As part of the restoration process, we propose to re-grade the area and place vegetation suitable for the area that encourages small wildlife and birds while providing erosion control. The vegetation will match the existing as close as possible. We also propose to plant several replacement trees (type to be approved by Milwaukee County Parks Department).

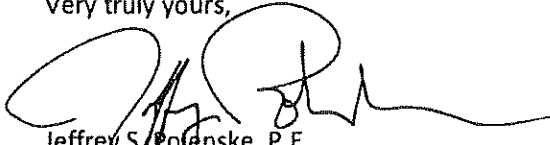
Benefits

The benefits of building this multi-use path in conjunction with the bridge project are numerous. By incorporating the path under the bridge structure at this time, future access under the bridge is assured for another 50 to 75 years. The path will enhance parkway use by encouraging the public to explore Grantosa Creek up close. The new path will also provide area residents a pedestrian and bicycle alternative to crossing West Capitol Drive and avoid busy highway traffic. This path will connect a posted bike route (north of West Capitol Drive) to a Preferred Street (south of West Capitol Drive) as designated by the "Milwaukee by Bike" map (a collaboration between the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County). This grade-separated path lies along the bike route that connects to the Oak Leaf Trail.

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Please provide a written "Statement of Significance" and concurrence of project details as soon as possible so we may proceed with the approval process for the environmental document. If you need any clarification or have any questions, please feel free to call Mr. Alhaji Hassan, Project Manager, of my staff, at (414) 286-8087. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey S. Pofenske, P.E.
City Engineer

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Enclosures

c: Mr. William Wehrley, City Engineer, City of Wauwatosa