



**DATE:** January 16, 2018

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
Dave Perrault, City Administrator

**FROM:** Matthew Bachler, City Planner  
Sue Polka, Public Works Director/City Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue Gateway Sign

<b>Budgeted Amount:</b> N/A	<b>Actual Amount:</b> N/A	<b>Funding Source:</b> N/A
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**Council Should Consider**

Review conceptual plans for the Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue gateway sign and provide direction to staff.

**Background**

The adopted 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan includes \$80,000 for gateway sign construction in 2018. At their work session on June 19, 2017, the City Council discussed using the funds budgeted in 2018 for a gateway sign at Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue. In August 2017, staff began working with WSB & Associates on a concept design plan and cost estimate for the gateway sign. Staff from WSB will be in attendance at the work session on January 16, 2018 to present the concept design plan.

To date, gateway signs have been installed at the following locations:

- County Road E2 at Cleveland Avenue
- County Road D at Cleveland Avenue
- County Road D at New Brighton Road/Lake Johanna Boulevard (Triangle Property)

The approximate cost of the signs for these past projects has been \$10,000. The project at the Triangle Property included additional landscaping and irrigation improvements, and staff has estimated the total cost of this project (including the sign) at between \$30,000 and \$45,000. Staff had anticipated the cost of the gateway sign at Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue to be more than these previous signs due to the larger scale of the project.

## **Discussion**

### *Location*

Staff evaluated the feasibility of locating a gateway sign in the northwest or southwest corner of the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Highway 96. The southwest corner was selected due to a significant grade change at the northwest corner from the road to a wetland. WSB completed a topographical survey of the area to locate curb lines, walkways, lights, utilities, trees, and right-of-way. The sign would be located in Ramsey County right-of-way and coordination with the County would be required.

### *Concept Design*

WSB prepared a concept design for the gateway sign for the City Council to consider (Attachment B). Staff provided information on past design plans so that the sign is consistent in style with other monument signs. The plans took into consideration the following:

- Travel speed
- Size of sign/text for readability
- Setbacks from roadway curb and walkways
- Viewing orientation
- Constructability

The sign would be oriented towards the intersection to maximize visibility and would be setback approximately 30 feet from the public trail along Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue. The sign would have a curved face running 40 feet in length with a height of 10 feet. A perennial planting bed is shown in front of the sign and a mix of aspen and coniferous trees and shrubs behind the sign. Electrical service would be provided to illuminate the sign lettering.

### *Cost Estimates*

WSB has provided an estimate of the construction cost in Attachment C. The estimate includes the cost of the sign itself, site preparation, landscaping, and electrical service. This subtotal cost is estimated at \$193,150. With contingencies and construction administration included, the estimated total is \$260,753.

WSB has identified two potential cost reduction items: replacing the proposed stone veneer with simulated concrete stone, and reducing the length of the sign from 40 feet to 22 feet. The associated cost savings with these changes are included in Attachment C.

Potential add-on items include sign wing walls (shown in the concept plan rendering), uplighting, and irrigation. These items are not included in the current estimated total.

## **Attachments**

- A. Aerial Map
- B. Concept Plan
- C. Cost Estimate