

February 15, 2005

To the Honorable, The Common Council

Subject: Streetscape Improvements
East Wisconsin Avenue from North Milwaukee
Street to the Milwaukee River; North Prospect
Avenue from East Wisconsin Avenue to
East Mason Street

Dear Council Members:

Funding has been made available to the City through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation under the Federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program to develop primary pedestrian corridors in the Milwaukee Central Business District. The purpose of this project is to promote walking in the Downtown area as an alternative means of transportation, and would be accomplished through the implementation of improvements to walkways and the pedestrian environment in general.

The pedestrian corridors would be implemented through a series of streetscape improvements on East/West Wisconsin Avenue, North Water Street and East/West Kilbourn Avenue in the Downtown area. Preliminary design of the streetscape plan, as authorized under Common Council File Number 981733, File Number 990806, and File Number 021033, was initiated in Fall, 2000. Construction of a catalytic project on West Wisconsin Avenue from North 2nd Street to North 4th Street to fully deploy elements of the streetscape was begun in the summer of 2002 to demonstrate individual components of the streetscape, and to generate support for plan implementation. Construction of the Second Phase of the project on E. Wisconsin Avenue from N. Milwaukee Street to the Milwaukee River will resume in Spring, 2005.

Implementation of the next stage of streetscape construction is proposed for East Wisconsin Avenue from North Milwaukee Street to North Prospect Avenue, and on North Prospect Avenue East Wisconsin Avenue to E. Mason Street in 2005. The project will include elements such as sidewalk replacement and improvement, street lighting upgrades, landscaping, a wayfinding system, and other pedestrian amenities.

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We have prepared and recommend adoption of the attached resolution, which authorizes construction of the third phase of the streetscape project. This resolution also authorizes and directs the City Comptroller to transfer funds to the project sub-account for the estimated construction costs.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.
City Engineer

Jeffrey J. Mantes
Commissioner of Public Works

RWB:lja

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