

ADVISORY COMMUNICATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL Item No. IX. C.

From: Mark K. Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner
Edina Transportation Commission

Date: January 6, 2015

Subject: Edina Transportation Commission Advisory Communication: Birchcrest B – Valley View Road Sidewalk

Attachments: None

Action Requested:

City Council direct City staff to modify the design of Valley View Rd. to anticipate that a sidewalk will be added at a later date. Modifications would include relocating the curb to reduce the impact of a future sidewalk on adjacent properties.

Situation:

The recently adopted Sidewalk Facilities Map shows a sidewalk on Valley View Rd. from Normandale Rd. to Code Ave. This section of Valley View Rd. will be reconstructed in 2015 as part of the Birchcrest B neighborhood street reconstruction project. **The final design for Valley View Rd. does not include a sidewalk; however, the design can be modified to provide for constructing a sidewalk at a later date. The ETC recommends making this modification.**

Background:

The Birchcrest B neighborhood street reconstruction project feasibility study proposed a 5' sidewalk and variable 5' boulevard on the north side of Valley View Rd. from Normandale Rd. to Code Ave. The study also proposed relocating the curb to lessen the impact of the sidewalk on adjacent properties.

In December 2013, the City Council approved the Birchcrest B project but did not include the sidewalk on Valley View Rd.

Traffic volumes and speeds on Valley View Rd. warrant a sidewalk. This section of Valley View Rd. carries more than 1,700 vehicles per day (local streets should carry <1,000 VPD). Eighty-fifth percentile speeds are 36 miles per hour (speed limit is 30 mph; pedestrian safer speed is <25 mph).

In December 2014, the City Council adopted a new Sidewalk Facilities Map that identifies a future sidewalk on Valley View Rd. from Normandale Rd. to Code Ave. The Plan uses impartial criteria to determine where sidewalks should be located. Criteria for locating a sidewalk on this section of Valley

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View Rd. include traffic speeds and volume, visibility of pedestrians walking along the roadway, and pedestrian connectivity.

This sidewalk would connect to a sidewalk on the west side of Normandale Rd. (to be constructed in 2015) and a sidewalk planned for Maddox Lane (scheduled for 2017). It is part of a wider sidewalk network that connects to the Grandview District, pedestrian bridges over Hwy 100, the Wyman Ave. bridge over Hwy 62 (scheduled for 2017), and a future sidewalk connecting to Garden Park (part of Hansen Rd. scheduled for 2017).

Analysis:

Although neighbor opposition to the sidewalk continues, the Sidewalk Facilities Map public engagement process also identified neighborhood support. Sidewalks serve not only those who live adjacent to them, but also the wider “walk shed.”

The Birchcrest B project was let and a bid accepted in early 2014. Construction was scheduled for 2014, but delayed to 2015 due to contractor workload.

Because a sidewalk was not included in the project, the final design for Valley View Rd. keeps the curb in its current location. With this design, if a sidewalk is constructed at a later date it will have a greater impact on adjacent yards. **By taking the opportunity provided by road reconstruction to relocate the curb, the City can reduce the impact of a future sidewalk on adjacent yards.**

Some additional engineering work (in-house) would be required to modify the street design. A change order would also be required to implement the modified design. Costs for additional engineering work could be paid from the PACS fund. Costs for relocating the curb would be paid from the storm water utility fund.

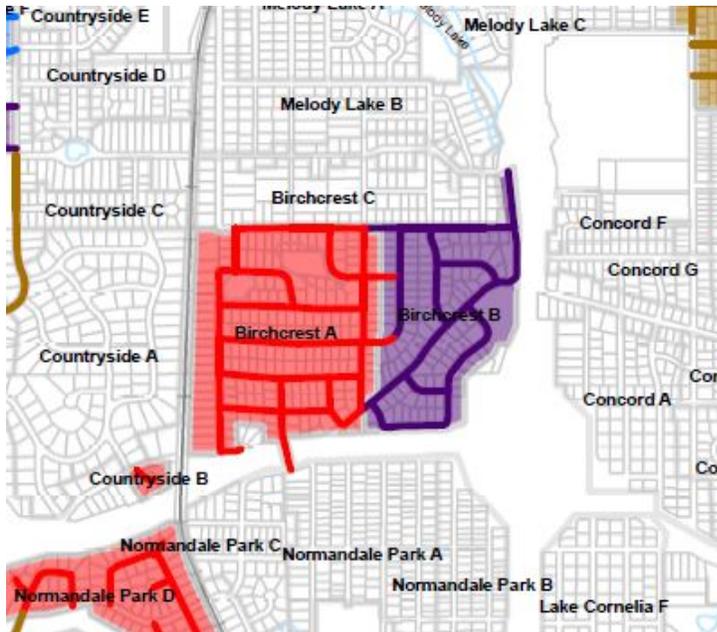
Recommendation:

The ETC discussed the above facts at the December 2014 meeting and concluded that if the city is not going to construct a sidewalk on Valley View Rd. with the Birchcrest B neighborhood street reconstruction project, then it would be wise to **modify the design of Valley View Rd. to anticipate that a sidewalk will be added at a later date. Modifications would include relocating the curb to reduce the impact of a future sidewalk on adjacent properties. The ETC voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation.**

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Prepared by: Jennifer Janovy
Reviewed by: Tom LaForce and Dawn Spanhake
Date: December 23, 2014



From City of Edina 2013-2019
Anticipated Local Street Reconstruction
Map
(Red = 2017; Purple = 2015, delayed
from 2014)



From City of Edina Sidewalk Facilities
Plan (Sidewalks in 2015 and 2017 project
areas above include: Normandale Rd.; W.
60th St.; Valley View Rd.; Maddox Ln.;
Wyman Ave.; and Hansen Rd.)