

Memorandum

August 16, 2013

TO: Capitol Environs Commission
FR: Lynn Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director 
RE: Proposed streetscape improvements along Goodhue Boulevard
between 'F' and 'G' Streets

In August 2010, the Capitol Environs Commission approved a recommendation to retain the sidewalk and street tree alignment along Goodhue Boulevard between 'A' and 'F' Streets, and to begin planting of replacement street trees in this alignment. The Commission also directed further planning of the streetscape along Goodhue Boulevard between 'F' and 'G' Streets. During the July 2013 Capitol Environs Commission meeting three alternatives were presented for the streetscape between 'F' and 'G' Streets and public input was sought on these proposals.

The purpose of this memo is to provide a recommendation regarding streetscape improvements along Goodhue Boulevard between 'F' and 'G' Streets. There has been significant public interest in this project. We appreciate the participation of Commission members at the public meeting regarding the project on August 15th, at McPhee Elementary School. Based on many e-mail messages, public comments, and preference expressed during the public meeting, and a letter from the Near South Neighborhood Association dated August 15, 2013 (copy attached), I am recommending the following for the Commission's consideration and action regarding a fourth alternative approach:

1. Leave the sidewalk on the west side of Goodhue Boulevard between 'F' and 'G' Streets in its current alignment. Replace the curb ramps on the north and south ends of this sidewalk, and adjust the elevation of the sidewalk in the northern portion of the block to bring them into compliance with ADA standards. Review the condition of the remainder of this section of sidewalk and make needed repairs.
2. Review the locations of the Greenspire Lindens recently planted along the west side of the block and adjust placement, if needed. The street trees along the 'G' to 'H' block are Autumn Purple Ash planted in a formal bosc. The form of Greenspire Linden is a dense upright oval that should be a good transition between the rounded form of the Autumn Purple Ash to the north, and the large overstory street trees to the south. There are two Autumn Purple Ash in the southern area of the west side of the block. It would be desirable to replace these two trees with Greenspire Lindens for consistency in the visual appearance of this line of street trees in the future, given the blocks proximity to the Capitol Building and the streetscape in the block between 'G' and 'H' Streets. I have contacted with the adjoining property owner to ask if he is supportive of this change, and will make a report to the Commission during the upcoming regular meeting on August 22nd.

3. Coordinate with Lincoln Public Schools to plant Greenspire Lindens along the frontage of the McPhee Elementary School site on the east side of the block.

We will send an e-mail notification to people who have submitted comments on the project by e-mail, and who signed the attendance sheet at the August 15th meeting, letting them know of my staff recommendation and the date, time, and location of the Capitol Environs Commission meeting on August 22nd. We appreciate the Commission's continuing interest and involvement with this project. Please phone me at 402-441-8265 if you have any questions.



15 August 2013

Director
Lincoln Parks and Recreation
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As a long-time resident of our city and President of the Near South Neighborhood Association, I am writing to express our concern about recent discussion and the pending decision to remove the trees along Goodhue Boulevard.

The Near South Neighborhood Association advocates that the trees on the west side of Goodhue Boulevard between "F" and "G" Streets remain in place during their natural lifespan and that the sidewalk should not be moved. Further, that any replacement trees placed in this block should preserve the protective canopy as a continuation of the plantings to the south.

We further re-affirm our position in support maintaining the large specimen trees between "A" and "F" Streets in their current positions interior to the sidewalks (between the sidewalks and Goodhue Boulevard).

We do not believe that the purported benefits of adding ramps and increasing the sight lines to the Capitol compare to the benefits, both aesthetic and ecological, of keeping the trees.

Sincerely,

William C. Carver
William C. Carver
President, NSNA

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