

Item 24-1133: Approve Lawe Street Concrete Reconstruction Design

Common Council

Wed, Sep 04, 2024 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 40:17

All right. With that, we'll move on to the item from municipal services committee. This is item 24-1133 approve Lawe Street concrete reconstruction design. We have a motion and a second to approve. Any discussion? Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 40:44

Thank you. I'm sad that Director Block isn't here. We're definitely very grateful to how she shepherded us through the beginning of this process, and certainly District Two and District Four really appreciated the opportunity to attend public meetings and really get some input heard.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 41:05

I know that what we're voting on tonight isn't down to this level of detail, but just to continue to support the voice of the neighborhood, which has been such a strong theme that we've been trying to uplift during this process, the neighborhood is very interested in the concrete median type structures to be designed in a way that accommodates flower beds or planting beds of some sort that the neighborhood would look forward to partnering with the city to maintain. So just to keep that in mind as we move into the future stages of this design when we get down to more of the details. The neighborhood really is looking for a lot of plantings, looking for, you know, preserving trees and things like that. So wanted to thank staff for their work on this. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 41:55

Alder Smith.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 41:56

Yeah, just to second what Alder Meltzer said. I'm glad that this is—has been shepherded and we've gotten to the place where we're voting on this. I do have a question about what's going to happen to Meade Street. We have these two kind of feeder streets going from Wisconsin down to College, and I had some discussion with Eric Lom about traffic right now on Meade Street, and just wondering what the thoughts are as far as how that street, which has two schools on it, will be accommodated as these changes get made. Just wondering if there's get some comments on thoughts about.

Mayor Jake Woodford 42:34

Is your question related to construction and detouring?

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 42:39

Yes.

Mayor Jake Woodford 42:39

Okay, so I think that would be a good conversation to have as we get a little farther along in the project and get into that process a little bit farther with respect to project-related details. I think an important thing for us to keep in mind as project plans start to develop, because this, this will have traffic impacts in the neighborhood over the course of two summers. You'll have utility work, and that will be followed them by the reconstruction. So certainly, something to keep on the list. I don't think at this stage of the project, we can speak in any kind of

detail to the specific detouring, but I appreciate you raising it. And I see Nate making a note for his team also. So, we'll make sure that that is very high on the list as we make our way toward doing the project.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 43:32

Okay.

Mayor Jake Woodford 43:32

Thank you, Alder Smith. Further discussion? All right, we do have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. All right, that motion passes 13 to zero.

Mayor Jake Woodford 43:55

And I will just say I was at the grocery store earlier today, and someone stopped me and asked me what the heck we're going to do about Lawe Street. He said, it's terrible. And I said, well, we know it and that the Council was going to be taking this up tonight. So, there is a lot of interest in the community and getting this project going.

Mayor Jake Woodford 44:14

And appreciate the work of our alders also in making connections with the neighborhood, representing the concerns that have been raised and helping us develop a process that gathered input on the front end of this project, and really, really appreciate the work that Alder Meltzer and Alder Smith have been putting into help make those connections, make sure we do right by the community. So, thank you very much for that.