

Mayor
John T. Keis

Council Members
Tom Fischer
Michael McGraw
Christian Torkelson
Teresa Miller



515 Little Canada Road
East
Little Canada, MN
55117
www.littlecanadamn.org

City Administrator
Chris Heineman

**Workshop Meeting of the
Little Canada City Council**
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.
City Center Conference Room

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER - Workshop Meeting - 6:00 P.m.
2. Roll Call
3. Workshop Topics
 - A. Discuss Potential Grant Applications For Little Canada Road Improvements & Country Drive Realignment

Documents:

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LCR AND COUNTRY DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS.PDF](#)

4. Adjourn

This agenda is subject to change by additions and deletions.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Keis and Members of the City Council

FROM: Eric Seaburg, P.E., City Engineer
Bill Dircks, Public Works Director

DATE: April 13, 2022

RE: Grant Opportunities for Little Canada Road & Country Drive

BACKGROUND:

The area near the Little Canada Road and I-35E interchange operates poorly for both motorists and pedestrians. For pedestrians, the interchange acts as a barrier due to the number of signals and vehicle paths that pedestrians must cross. For motorists, the interchange can be confusing, congested, or even unsafe due to the number of turn lanes, access points, and traffic signals. The proximity of Country Drive to the interchange also presents unique traffic challenges.

City Administrator Heineman initiated a conversation with City Engineer Eric Seaburg in 2021 and requested preliminary concept plans from Bolton & Menk for a redesign of these sections of Little Canada Road and Country Drive. This request also follows Strategic Direction Three (Mandating Action and Accountability) from Little Canada's 2019 Strategic Plan. Initiatives under this strategic direction include the establishment of long-term planning workshops.

DISCUSSION:

Public Works and Engineering staff have been collaborating, on a high level, about possible infrastructure enhancements that would improve pedestrian and vehicular deficiencies in the area. Ramsey County and MnDOT staff have been part of early conversations and have showed a willingness to support the City if the City decides to lead a project. However, this area does not carry the same priority for MnDOT and Ramsey County as it does for the City of Little Canada.

The only projects currently scoped in this area are replacement of the traffic signals at the I-35E interchange ramps in 2023 (by MnDOT), and a pavement rehabilitation project on Country Drive in 2024-2025 (Little Canada CIP). Higher level traffic and pedestrian improvements along Little Canada Road and Country Drive are currently not planned or funded by any agency.

Through early collaboration, Bolton & Menk has identified two potential improvements that may qualify for potential State and Federal grant funding. City staff and City Engineer Eric Seaburg will be present at the work session to discuss the possible improvements and schedule of tasks necessary to get grant applications submitted. A brief summary is tabulated below and in the attached Scope of Services Proposal. If unsuccessful on this round of grant applications, these initiatives would be well-positioned for future grant submittals.

POTENTIAL ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS:

- **Little Canada Road (Phase 1)**
 - 4 to 3 Lane Conversion from I-35E to Lakeshore Drive
 - Utilize information from Ramsey County consultant study from 2020/2021
 - Single Lane Roundabout at Lakeshore Drive
 - Eligible for up to \$2.0M in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funding
 - 10% minimum local match required

- **Country Drive (Phase 2)**
 - Perform realignment study to determine feasibility, impacts
 - Country Drive could be a separated intersection
 - Country Drive could be combined with Lakeshore Drive
 - Eligible for up to \$710,000 in MnDOT Local Partnership Program funds

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

The City Council is asked to review the proposed concept plans and attached Scope of Services proposal for possible infrastructure enhancements and consider if you would like to engage Bolton & Menk to complete additional analysis at this time. The total cost for the proposed tasks are estimated at \$22,500. If the City Council decides to move forward, staff would recommend utilizing Fund 450 (Infrastructure Capital Improvement Fund) which is typically used to fund expenditures related to the City's streets and various infrastructure projects. There are sufficient funds available in Fund 450 to accommodate this expense.

This item is also included on the City Council agenda for formal approval if Council should decide to move forward with the proposal from Bolton & Menk.



**BOLTON
& MENK**

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April 6, 2022

Mr. Chris Heineman
City Administrator
515 Little Canada Road E
Little Canada, MN 55117

RE: Little Canada Road Improvements & Country Drive Realignment

Dear Mr. Heineman:

Bolton & Menk, Inc. is pleased to present our proposal for professional engineering services related to the Little Canada Road Safety Improvements.

The attachments define our proposed scope of services and fees for a traffic analysis & Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant Application on Little Canada Road between I-35E and Lakeshore Avenue, as well as a realignment analysis of Country Drive north of Little Canada Road with corresponding MnDOT Local Partnership Program (LPP) Grant Application. We prepared this information based on conversations over the past few years regarding the operations and safety of Little Canada Road and Country Drive near I-35E. These services allow the city to leverage Ramsey County's recent analysis of the corridor and potentially obtain outside funding for much-needed improvements in the heart of the community.

If the proposal is acceptable, please return one signed copy to verify your acceptance. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you to further these important improvements. Please review the attached documents and contact either of us by phone or email if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for considering Bolton & Menk, Inc. for your engineering needs.

Sincerely,
BOLTON & MENK, INC.

Eric Seaburg, P.E.
Principal Engineer
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Beth A. Engum, P.E.
Senior Transportation Project Manager
(651) 341-0847
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Attachments: Scope of Services, Budget, and Schedule

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Bolton & Menk, Inc. will complete the following scope of work:

Phase 1: Little Canada Rd Improvements

Task 1 – Traffic Counts

We will obtain 13-hour turning movement counts at the Little Canada Road intersections with Country Drive and Lakeshore Avenue. Counts at the other intersections within the project limits (I-35E ramps, Centerville Road) will be obtained from MnDOT and Ramsey County.

Task 2 – HSIP Application

We will prepare a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 federal funds, including the necessary traffic analysis, for the following improvements on Little Canada Road:

- Restriping of the existing roadway between Lakeshore Avenue and the southbound I-35E off-ramp from a four-lane undivided to a three-lane section characterized by a center left-turn lane.
- Construction of a single-lane roundabout at the County Road C/Lakeshore Avenue intersection.

Phase 2: Country Drive Realignment

Task 1 – Study

We will analyze options for the potential realignment of Country Drive north of Little Canada Road. The goal is to improve intersection spacing on Little Canada Road west of I-35E, which will improve access and traffic safety/mobility. Using aerial photography and LIDAR data, we will consider needs related to traffic including buses, trucks, pedestrians, and bicyclists; business access; municipal and private utilities; and drainage/stormwater management.

The analysis will include preparation of concept-level layouts and construction cost estimates and identify adjacent property impacts for up to three (3) alternative alignments. The analysis and findings will be summarized in a study report recommending a preferred alternative. This information contained in the study report can be utilized to move into preliminary design of the improvements at a future date.

Task 2 – LPP Application

We will prepare a Local Partnership Program (LPP) grant application for FY 2024 MnDOT funds, based on the

preferred alignment resulting from the analysis included in the Country Drive Realignment Study.

Task 3 – Meetings

We will coordinate and up to two (2) Bolton and Menk, Inc. staff will attend the following meetings:

- One (1) City Council work session where we will present information relating to grant funding applications and potential improvements.
- Up to two (2) agency meetings with Ramsey County and/or MnDOT.
- One (1) public open house meeting including newsletter invitation, PowerPoint presentation, graphics including layouts, and meeting summary.

DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables are included in our scope of services:

- HSIP grant application
- LPP grant application
- Country Drive Realignment Study Report
- Meeting materials including agendas, minutes, presentations, and graphics/layouts

FEES

Bolton & Menk, Inc.'s proposed fees to provide the described work will be billed hourly based on the enclosed fee schedule with the total estimated cost to be:

Scope of Services	
Task	Estimated Fees
Phase 1: Little Canada Road Improvements	
• Task 1 – Traffic Counts	\$ 400
• Task 2 – HSIP Application	\$ 7,000
Subtotal:	\$7,400
Phase 2: Country Drive Realignment	
• Task 1 – Study	\$11,000
• Task 2 – LPP Application	\$ 6,500
• Task 3 – Meetings & Coordination	\$5,000
Subtotal:	\$22,500

SCHEDULE

In accordance with your request for services, we propose the following schedule:

Traffic Counts Late April 2022
 Country Drive Realignment Analysis Late April – Early May 2022
 Council Workshop May 2022
 Public Open House May 2022
HSIP Application Due June 1, 2022
LPP Application Due Early June 2022 (Anticipated)

ACCEPTANCE

Accepted by:

Print Name/Title

Signature and Date