

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Gary Holm

DATE: March 10, 2022

RE: N. River Street Utilization Options – 2022 Summer Season
N. River Street Implementation of Permanent Catenary Lighting (CS)

Utilization Options

As of the date of this memo, the City is awaiting IDOT's review of our permit request to permanently convert N. River Street to one-way southbound between State St. and Wilson St. Given the current date, it is no longer possible to bid, award and construct the one-way project prior to the previously established goal of Memorial Day.

City Staff applied for and was successfully given a permit by IDOT to temporarily close N. River St. from State St. to Wilson St. for the 2022 summer season.

Staff recommends the following utilization options for 2022:

- 1) Implement a temporary full-closure identical to what was done for the 2020 and 2021 seasons. The closure could be implemented any time after the end of snow season. The closure could remain in place until the week following Thanksgiving.

OR

- 2) Implement only Saturday morning closures, for the Farmer's Market event, identical to what was done from 2012 to 2020. The roadway would remain open to traffic during all other times – except for a few select closures associated with other permitted special events. Under this scenario, outdoor restaurant uses would be regulated via the City's standard license agreement.

Catenary Lighting

Last summer City Staff presented a list of unfunded capital projects to City Council. N. River St. permanent catenary lighting was included on that list. A portion of N. River St. falls within a TIF district that is set to expire in 2024. There are currently funds in that TIF District that could be utilized for infrastructure projects, such as permanent catenary lighting.

As you know, catenary lighting has been deployed by the City for the past two summer seasons. The City's lighting was always meant to be a temporary solution. The City's lighting consists of wooden barrels, wooded posts and light-duty strings. The City's lighting is not built to withstand years of outdoor service.

In August, 2020 Staff wrote a detailed memo outlining various options for catenary lighting (see attached). City Council decided at that time to explore an option for dedicated lighting poles (not building connections). City Council has never given formal direction to proceed to design of the permanent lighting project. Given the ticking time clock for expiration of TIF funds, **Staff recommends that the City move forward with design of permanent catenary lighting in 2022 so that a project could be constructed in 2023.**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Gary Holm, Director of Public Works

DATE: August 20, 2020

RE: North River Street Catenary Lighting (CS)

Following City Council's direction, Staff has begun to investigate the steps required to install catenary lighting over the North River Street right-of-way from Wilson Street northward to State Street. It is staff's understanding that City Council desires to install lighting similar to the following example:



On August 5th Staff reached out to the signage and lighting contractor that the City recently used for the Batavia Dam project. Staff inquired if the contractor had any experience with catenary lighting projects and if they would have an interest in assisting us. The contractor was very helpful in providing background information. They indicated that they would be interested in bidding on the work once contract documents are completed. They indicated that they do not have the in-house expertise to design such a lighting system.

Staff has identified the following key milestones that need to be accomplished before construction of a catenary lighting system can commence:

- **Initial coordination with private building owners.** The existing public streetlight poles on N. River Street are not suitable for support of catenary lighting. Therefore, the only available options are to 1) construct new dedicated light poles or 2) make structural connections to the existing private building facades. Staff feels that it would not be desirable aesthetically to add poles to the N. River St. streetscape. Staff feels it would be most advantageous to connect catenary lighting to the existing buildings. Building connections would require a structural analysis followed by securing anchors into the facades. Any work on the buildings would require permission from the private owners and execution of associated legal documentation. Initial coordination with the private building owners is a critical first step. If the building

owners are not willing to grant permission, then other options would need to be explored in order to facilitate lighting installation – most likely we'd need to consider installation of new dedicated poles within the public right-of-way.

- **Retain a design consultant.** Assuming that the City and private building owners agree to work together, we would need to retain the services of a design consultant. This would likely be an architectural or engineering firm that would be capable of evaluating the building structures and designing the anchor points. The general scope of design work would include building evaluations, structural design, lighting design, plan preparation and construction contract documents.
- **Final coordination with private building owners.** In parallel with the design process the City would need to work with the building owners to secure their final approvals and execution of any necessary legal agreements.
- **Bidding and construction.** After completion of the above steps, the City would likely solicit bids from lighting and signage contractors, electrical contractors and potentially other building trades contractors. Electrical service connection work would be performed in-house by the City's linemen.

Each of the above milestones will require considerable time and coordination on behalf of City Staff, professional consultants and most likely outside legal counsel. The catenary lighting project was not contemplated as part of the 2020 budget process. Funding for any preliminary work, design work or construction would need to come from General Fund reserves or potentially TIF funds.

City Staff is seeking formal direction from Council to proceed with expending personnel and financial resources in order to accomplish the above identified milestones. Assuming the process goes smoothly, a realistic timeline would result in construction commencing in spring, 2021 so that the lights can be completed in time for seasonal outdoor activities. Design/construction activities that are not completed in 2020 will be formally included in the 2021 draft budget for Council's approval.

Additional Background Information and Resources:

Catenary lighting systems are most typically designed by an architectural or engineering firm that is capable of performing the necessary structural analysis. A design-build contractor may also be able to provide the necessary professional services.

One example of a design firm that Staff found via a Google search is Ronstan International, Inc. They have several pages on their website devoted to the topic and they offer several project examples.

www.ronstantensilearch.com/category/tensile-projects/catenary-lighting

Ronstan has a page devoted to Design Guidelines that serves as a good reference resource

www.ronstantensilearch.com/catenary-lighting-design-guidelines

Visa Lighting is a manufacturer that also offers a design guideline handbook.

www.visalighting.com/sites/default/files/u84/Catenary%20Design%20Guide_10_06.pdf

Visa's guidelines help to demonstrate the technical complexities behind a well-designed lighting system.