



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** 22-800, **Version:** 1

---

**City Council Meeting Date:** December 6, 2022

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
City Administrator

**From:** David E. Bennett, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer

**Subject:**

Consider Approving Professional Service Agreement for Trunk Highway 246 Corridor Study.

**Action Requested:**

The Northfield City Council approves a Motion for a professional service agreement (Attachment 1) with Bolton and Menk, Inc. for City Project (STR2022-A72) Trunk Highway 246 Corridor Study

**Summary Report:**

The City sent out a request for proposal for the TH-246 Scoping/Corridor study. This study will assist the City in identifying necessary improvements along the corridor along with the consideration of a turnback of TH-246. The City's Transportation Advisory Committee subgroup reviewed the scoping study and provided additional feedback related to the proposal work (attachment 2).

The cost for the TH-246 Scoping/Corridor study came in higher than anticipated, therefore the City reached out to Rice County to see if they would cost participate on the study. As background, MnDOT along with Rice County identified the turnback as a priority, as such the City responded by having this as a work item for the Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee to better inform the City on how to move forward.

MnDOT has indicated for a Turnback to occur, it will need to be with both Rice County and Goodhue County. Rice County was motivated for the turnback over the last couple of years, however, that motivation has seemed to cool and they have indicated that they currently have no official position on a turnback of TH-246.

If a turnback is no longer being pursued, should the City move forward with the Study? Staff feels there are benefits with the study. TH-246 is falling apart south of Woodley Street; this probably indicates that this should be getting added to the statewide transportation improvement program. The City's study would assist with recommendation related to those improvements from (County Road 1 to Highway 3).

The City of Northfield received proposals from Bolton and Menk, Inc. and SEH. Both firms are qualified to do the work, SEH cost were significantly higher, therefore, staff is recommending Bolton and Menk, Inc. perform the work.

**Alternative Options:**

An alternative option would be to see if MnDOT would consider partnering on a Scoping/Turnback Study.

**Financial Impacts:**

\$128,818 funding for this is included 2023 proposed budget.

**Tentative Timelines:**

Study should be complete late summer of 2023.