

## **North WWTF Decommissioning, Forcemain Re-route, Street & Trail Improvements Project Update**

Since last fall, WSB has been working closely with City Staff on preliminary design and planning for the upcoming wastewater, street and trail improvements that are scheduled to begin in 2023. The initial steps in the planning process have been focused on potential funding opportunities to minimize to amount of City dollars that will be needed to fund the project. To date, multiple funding sources have been considered with a few applications already being submitted. Funding applications already submitted include the following:

- Local Road Improvements Program (LRIP) – MnDOT
- Federal Earmark – Senator Tina Smith
- Fund 73 – Cass County

In the next year, requests for funding will be made to multiple funding sources to continue to look for grant funds and low interest loans to fund the project. Some of those funding sources include the following:

### 1) Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA)

Applications will most likely be submitted to PFA. Grant funds are the preference through PFA, but they do also offer low interest loans that will be necessary to fund at least a portion of the project as it is unlikely to obtain grant money to fund the entire project.

### 2) Minnesota DNR

The DNR annually has a number of park and trail funding opportunities. These park and trail grants will be reviewed to determine which are the best opportunities to secure grant funds for extension of the new trail from proposed roundabout near City Hall north to Gull Point.

### 3) Minnesota State Legislature

Preliminary design documents will be provided to local state representative to pursue direct funds from the State legislature.

It is unlikely that one sole funding source will provide enough grant money to fund a significant portion of the project. Therefore, multiple applications are being submitted to different agencies.

Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the City of East Gull Lake is expected to receive approximately \$120,000 that can be used towards infrastructure for public water systems, sanitary sewer and broadband. Since East Gull Lake does not have a public water supply system, these funds will likely be used towards improvements on the sanitary sewer system. The first payment of approximately half of the funds will be dispersed in the spring/summer of 2021 with the remaining funds coming in 2022.

One option currently being considered to reduce cost of the proposed trail network is the purchase and re-use of an existing bridge to be placed at the channel crossing. A new pedestrian bridge for the crossing could range from \$50,000 – 60,000 for a prefabricated bridge alone. Labor costs and foundations are likely to double that cost. A used bridge could be acquired for minimal cost plus the

cost of shipping. WSB is currently monitoring a project in the Rochester area that may have bridges available for reuse. The bridge in the photo below is one of the bridges being replaced.



**Potential Bridge for Reuse at Channel Crossing**

Moving forward, the schedule for the project is expected to be as follows:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>
Finalize Preliminary Plans	Summer 2021
Pursue Funding	2021 - 2022
Wetland Delineation	Summer 2021
Geotechnical Exploration	Summer 2021
Final Design	Winter of 2021/2022
Bidding	Spring of 2022
Construction	2023

Since this project is closely connected to the realignment of CSAH 70 being completed by Cass County, schedules are subject to change. Final design of the CSAH 70 realignment is expected to begin in the summer/fall of 2021.