



MEMORANDUM

To: Finance Committee
From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Date: August 7, 2013
Re: Consideration – Herrington Road Bridge Closure

BACKGROUND:

During the City Council meeting held on June 24, 2013, the City Council held a Public Hearing on the possible closure of the Herrington Road Bridge. City staff requested after the Public Hearing that the City Council table any action until the July 8, 2013 Council meeting. During the July 8, 2013 meeting, this matter was tabled once again until the August 12, 2013 meeting to afford City staff time to meet with Mr. Tony Rice on the proposed purchase of his property.

On August 7, 2013, a confidential memo was provided to the City Council outlining the lack of progress made on reaching an agreement with Mr. Rice. Below is a reprint of the June 20, 2013 memo prepared for the June 24, 2013 Public Hearing:

TO: Mayor and City Councilors
FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Paul Fredette, Public Works Director
DATE: June 20, 2013
REF: Public Hearing to Close a Section of Herrington Road

In its simplest form, the question that the City Council will consider during the Public Hearing on June 24, 2013 is "Should the Herrington Road Bridge over Charles Creek be removed from service and demolished?" A decision to remove from service and demolish the bridge will have the impact of closing that section of Herrington Rd.

On Monday, May 20, City staff presented a project update on the Roanoke Avenue Phase III project to the Quality of Life Community Watch meeting and again to the City Council at the Work Session on May 27. During both presentations, the focus was on the Herrington Road Bridge over Charles Creek; the NCDOT sister project, which is the reconstruction of the South Road Street

Bridge over Charles Creek; and to receive feedback on the proposal, which would close a section of Herrington Road.

After the City learned of the NCDOT project to reconstruct the South Road Street Bridge, City staff in cooperation with NCDOT staff began to evaluate the cost/benefit of removing the Herrington Road Bridge. During that evaluation:

- The State completed an inspection of the Herrington Road Bridge concluding that there were deficiencies in the bridge. The bridge was to be posted for weight restriction and eventually the bridge will have to be removed or replaced.
- The City did a two day traffic count and found the average daily traffic was only 615 vehicles per day. Of interest is that 90% of the vehicles counted were traveling northbound and only about 60 vehicles (10%) were traveling southbound. The peak traffic flow was between 4 and 5 p.m. at which time there were 70 vehicles per hour.
- We determined that if the Herrington Road Bridge were eliminated, a more cost effective redesign of Phase III of the Roanoke Avenue Drainage Project will allow for a much improved storm water discharge configuration into Charles Creek.
- The design concept of eliminating the Herrington Road Bridge will also contribute to a better and safer configuration of the Herrington Rd., South Road Street and 'B' Street intersection.
- The City would avoid the cost of rebuilding the Herrington Road Bridge estimated to be near \$1 million, which would include a 40 foot bridge span to eliminate the current restriction in the Charles Creek flowage that is contributing to the destructive 'bridge scour' that currently exists.

The most obvious negative impact to removing the Herrington Road Bridge is that the remaining southerly section of Herrington Road from Edge Street would be "dead ended". If Herrington Road is "dead ended" staff would present two options for the Council's consideration. The first would be to build a "hammer head" or cul-de-sac configuration near 1009 Herrington Road on City owned property so that cars could turn around conveniently; or, to reconfigure Herrington Road with an 80 degree curve to intersect South Road Street with a much safer intersection configuration. The City will have to acquire some property to reconfigure the Herrington Road/South Road Street intersection.

Again, at the June 24th Public Hearing the simplest form of the question in front of the City Council is whether or not the City should remove the Herrington Road Bridge over Charles Creek.

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Depending on the action determined by the City Council, there will be two separate critical paths that the City could follow, which is detailed in the attached flow diagram.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. By motion, recommend that the City Council “remove this item from the table”; and further,
2. By motion, recommend that the City Council authorize the closing of the Herrington Road Bridge and instruct City staff to proceed with the development of Phase III of the Roanoke Avenue Drainage Project based on that premise.

RCO/vdw