



CITY OF LE SUEUR
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jasper Kruggel, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Coventry Road Discussion
DATE: For the City Council Meeting of Monday, July 22, 2018

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Review staff considerations for the opening of Coventry Road at Elmwood Avenue.

SUMMARY

City staff in conjunction with County staff and their respective engineering consultants have been working on the design of former State Highway 112, current County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 22. Through the collaborative engineering process, Coventry Road has been identified to be reopened.

Engineering Considerations

Coventry Road has a history of being opened and closed due to sightline considerations. Sightlines will be vastly improved due to the proposed removal of nearly two feet of material from the peak of the hill adjacent to Mound Cemetery. City Engineer Cory Beinfeld has prepared a memo that is attached to address any safety considerations related to this intersection. Also, Mr. Beinfeld will be present at the City Council meeting if there are engineering related questions.

Emergency Services Review

Staff has also solicited feedback from local emergency service providers regarding the current and future plans for the intersection of Coventry Road and Elmwood Avenue. Below is a summary of that information.

As a note, the City of Le Sueur City Code currently references the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code in Chapter 91 – Fire Protection. This code was adopted in 1976 and the referenced Minnesota Uniform Fire Code was discontinued in 2003. In practice, the Le Sueur Fire Department and Building Official have been using the 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code for inspections and compliance checks. As a housekeeping item, staff will be proposing the official adoption of the 2015 State Fire Code and applicable appendices later this year. In the 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code, there are best practices related to dead end streets. As we haven't officially adopted this code, we can only reference the items in the 2015 State Fire Code as "best practices" as we are not legally obligated to follow them.

Fire Department

"Le Sueur Fire is still in favor of opening this road as long as the site lines are corrected on 112 or a new turnaround is in place. The dead end is a safety hazard."

Police Department

"As someone that has responded to many emergencies in the Park Knolls subdivision over the years, I

can tell you that opening Coventry Road would greatly increase response times to said calls. Over the years there have been times when a squad is less than a block away but must drive down to Inner Drive and work my way back. This creates more risk to public safety and added response time to an emergency call. Many times, when 911 is called, people do not have the luxury of an additional five minutes. Also, I have been in emergency situations several times with the Fire Department and the Ambulance Department and have witnessed the time delay to this subdivision due to limited access streets.

I believe that opening Coventry Road would greatly improve response times and also add more general patrol to the area closest to Hwy 112. Over time the 30 MPH zone has moved further south and now starts just as vehicle crest the hill almost 780 feet south of Kaukis Drive which has been open all along.

I believe that opening Coventry Road would greatly improve vehicle traffic flows within the entire subdivision.”

Ambulance Service

“We do not believe [Coventry] Road poses an issue for our ambulance service and we have no opinion on whether it should remain closed or be opened.

It may take some minor additional time to turn the ambulance around and or use other nearby egress/ingress options in the event of an emergency.”

Future Planning Considerations

Coventry Road is currently classified as a Local Road in our road classification report prepared by Bolton and Menk. The future use of this road is a Collector Street, which is what is has been designed as, and will function as in the future. Coventry Road serves the Park Knolls and Knoll View East neighborhoods and will continue to serve future development to the east and south of the current neighborhoods. It is essential that if possible, taking into consideration pedestrian and vehicular safety, this road is connected to Elmwood Avenue and used as it was intended.

Neighborhood Considerations

As one may anticipate, neighborhood residents that are directly affected by the opening of Coventry Road have safety concerns related to the opening of this intersection. Staff has engaged with various neighborhood members and have provided information about the opening of the intersection.

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Staff is providing an update on this intersection as the TH112 Turnback project is at the 60% design phase, and if Council has the desire to keep the intersection of Coventry Road and Elmwood Avenue closed, action may be taken to do so. If Council chooses to take action to keep this intersection closed, staff recommends doing so by a motion and also providing a basis for keeping the intersection closed so that the permanent record will reflect the City Council's rationale, and future City Councils will have this information. If City Council would like the intersection to proceed to be opened, no action is required.



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Date: July 18, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Jasper Kruggel, City Administrator
Rich Kucera, Public Services Director
Dave Tiegs, Le Sueur County Engineer

Subject: TH 112 Turnback (CSAH 22)
Coventry Road Reopening

As part of the preliminary design for the TH 112 Turnback (CSAH 22) project within the City of Le Sueur it is observed that the leg of Coventry Road does not connect with TH 112 (Elmwood Ave). Research of the existing intersection and roadway profile along 112 found records citing that inadequate sight distance was attributed to the current closure and lack of connection.

The proposed turnback project is planning for a full reconstruction of the roadway of TH 112 starting at County Road 115 on the south end and continuing north to the intersection of Ferry St. By definition a full reconstruction consists of the removal and replacement of the entire roadway section. This encompasses a critical analysis of the existing roadway profile and allows for potential changes to improve the roadway function and safety. The intersection of Coventry Road was one of these locations.

There is engineering design policy (both state and national) that governs requirements for sufficient sight distance at cross road intersections. Review of these requirements did confirm that the existing condition does not meet MnDOT's standards for sight distance for a stop controlled intersection with a minor road entering onto a major highway. The primary factor is the lack of sight distance looking south (to the left) from Coventry towards the top of the hill on 112. As part of the final roadway design a revised roadway profile has been determined and results in the cutting/lowering of the 112 hill west of Coventry by approximately two feet (2-ft). This grade change not only results in a decrease in the longitudinal slope along 112 from 5% to 4%, but also provides a sight distance that meets MnDOT's standard for a 30 mph posted speed. Review of the sight distance looking north (to the right) from Coventry down the hill provides adequate sight distance in both the existing and proposed final design condition.

Based on the proposed new roadway design and confirmation that adequate sight distance is now able to be provided at the intersection of Coventry Road. As your City Engineer my recommendation is to connect and reopen Coventry Road as part of the proposed TH 112 turnback project.

If you need more information or wish to discuss this further, feel free to contact me at cory.bienfang@bolton-menk.com or (507) 995-2936.

Sincerely,

Cory Bienfang, P.E.
City Engineer