



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Keis and Members of the City Council

FROM: Mark D. Kasma, P.E., City Engineer
Bill Dircks, Public Works Director

DATE: February 10, 2021

RE: Country Drive Improvements – LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program)
Grant Application

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

The City Council is asked to pass a Resolution Supporting Pursuit of 2020 Local Road Improvement Program Funding from MnDOT for the Country Drive Improvements Project.

BACKGROUND:

City staff met with Bolton & Menk representatives in December to discuss possible grant funding options for local projects. The Local Road Improvement Program was established by the Minnesota legislature in 2002 and provides funding assistance to local agencies for constructing and reconstructing local roads. A fact sheet for the program is attached to this report and a link to the website is here: [LRIP Website](#).

The recent State Bonding Bill funded the LRIP program with \$75 million dollars available to cities, townships and counties throughout the State. The maximum award per project is \$1.25 million; street and drainage construction items are eligible. Sewer/water and project delivery costs are not eligible.

Country Drive between the railroad tracks near Ryan Drive and Little Canada Road East is in the City's CIP for reconstruction in 2024/2025. The scope of work includes minor watermain and storm sewer repairs, minor concrete curb and gutter replacement, new pavement and restriping. Bolton & Menk has identified this segment of roadway as a good candidate for the program; and with these funds, construction may be advanced ahead of schedule.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Should LRIP funds be awarded, the remainder of improvements costs will be funded through assessments and the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that the City Council pass Resolution Supporting Pursuit of 2020 Local Road Improvement Program Funding from MnDOT for the Country Drive Improvements Project.

Local Road Improvement Program

Program Overview

The Local Road Improvement Program provides funding assistance to local agencies for constructing or reconstructing local roads. Funds for the program are appropriated based on Minnesota Statutes 174.52. The program was created in 2002 and began with two types of funding: Trunk Highway Corridor Account and Routes of Regional Significance Account. In 2005, the Rural Road Safety Account was added to the program. The program is administered by MnDOT's State Aid for Local Transportation Division.



Trunk Highway Corridor Account

This account is used for grants to cities, towns and counties to assist in paying the local share of trunk highway projects that have local costs related to the trunk highway improvement and are not funded or are only partially funded with other state and federal funds.

Routes of Regional Significance Account

This account is used grants to cities, towns and counties for the costs of constructing or reconstructing city streets, county highways or town roads with statewide or regional significance that have not been fully funded through other state, federal or local funding sources.

Rural Road Safety Account

This account is used for grants to counties for constructing or reconstructing improvement projects that are intended primarily to reduce traffic crashes, fatalities, injuries, and property damage crashes on rural County State Aid Highways.

Program Guidance and Criteria

Guidance

Eligible local agencies include counties, cities, and townships. Non-state aid cities (generally those with populations less than 5,000) and townships must request the sponsorship of a county to apply for and implement their project.

Criteria

Projects are selected through a competitive solicitation process using the following criteria along with recommendations from the Local Road Improvement Program Advisory Committee.

- The availability of other state, federal and local funds
- The regional significance of the route
- Effectiveness of the proposed project in eliminating a transportation system deficiency
- The number of persons positively impacted by the project
- The project's contribution to other local, regional, or state, economic development or redevelopment efforts
- Ability of the local unit of government to adequately provide for the safe operation and maintenance of the facility upon project completion

In accordance with state statute, an Advisory Committee provides recommendations as to which projects will be funded. The committee is made up of one county commissioner, one county engineer, one city engineer, and two city council members or city administrators (one each from cities with population less than and greater than 5,000).

Funding Summary

Funds available for the program vary with each legislative bond appropriation. Funds shown in the table under competitive LRIP do not include engineering costs.

Year	Competitive LRIP		Earmarked LRIP	
	LRIP Funds (millions)	# of Projects Funded	LRIP Funds (millions)	# of Projects Funded
2014	\$54.4	43	-	-
2015	\$4.3	9	\$9.3	3
2016	\$0.0	n/a	-	-
2017 ^A	\$25.3	43	\$90.6	11
2018 ^A	\$35.0	49	\$75.4	16
2019	\$0.0	n/a	-	-
2020 ^A	\$75.0	TBD	\$109.9	23

^A Competitive LRIP account is still open so number of projects funded is subject to change

For More Information

Contact Marc Briese, State Aid Programs Engineer at marc.briese@state.mn.us or 651-366-3802.

Revised: 01/2021

**City of Little Canada
Ramsey County, Minnesota**

Resolution No. 2021-2-19

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM FUNDING FROM MnDOT FOR THE COUNTRY DRIVE
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Country Drive Improvements project includes Country Drive from the railroad tracks near Ryan Drive to Little Canada Road, East and

WHEREAS, the Country Drive project provides opportunity for roadway and drainage improvements as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,250,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development, and

WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LITTLE CANADA AS FOLLOWS; that

1. The City Council hereby supports the reconstruction of Country Drive from the railroad tracks near Ryan Drive to Little Canada Road East, and
2. The City Council hereby supports the City's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funding and authorizes staff to prepare and submit such application, and

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LITTLE CANADA, MINNESOTA, THIS 10th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.

ATTEST:

JOHN T. KEIS
Mayor

CHRISTOPHER HEINEMAN
City Administrator

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RAMSEY

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution presented to and adopted by the City of Little Canada at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 10th day of February, 2021, as shown by the minutes of said meeting in my possession.

Witness my hand as the City Clerk and the corporate seal of the City of Little Canada, this 10th day of February, 2021.

HEIDI HELLER
City Clerk

Seal