REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: 2/13/12 Item No.: 12.a

Department Approval

City Manager Approval

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Item Description: Approve Plans for County Road C-2 Construction Project

BACKGROUND

At the October 17, 2011 meeting, the City Council approved the construction of the connection of County Road C-2 between Hamline and Lexington. This project is scheduled for construction in 2012. The project that was approved by the City Council:

- Construct Road County Road C-2 connection between Griggs and Dunlap. To save some
 of the trees in the right of way, staff is proposing to construct this street segment at a 28
 foot width. No parking will be allowed in this segment.
- Construct a 6 foot wide concrete sidewalk along the north side of County Road C-2 between Hamline and Lexington. The segment of sidewalk between Fernwood Street and Lexington Avenue will be constructed by Pulte Homes as part of the Josephine Woods development.
- Install a parking bay on the north side of County Road C-2 along Cottontail Park. In all other locations between Hamline and 1261 County Road C-2, the north curb line will be moved 4 feet south to define the on street parking bay and narrow the rest of the road. No parking will be allowed where the street is narrowed.
- Street trees installed along the segment of road included in the construction project.
- Construct colored concrete pedestrian crossings at Hamline, Cottontail Park, and Lexington.

Staff held a Public Open House on January 12th, 2012. The meeting was attended by about 40 property owners. The majority of the attendees live on County Road C-2. Many of the comments provided to staff were incorporated into the final plans. Items that staff has identified during the plan development process that staff would like to bring to the City Council's attention as a part of the final plan approval.

- Existing site conditions: Staff has identified some construction debris, including concrete and bituminous chunks that will need to be removed from the site of the road connection construction. The soil borings show no evidence of the contamination that was found on the Josephine Woods site.
- Hamline right turn lane: Staff is recommending the construction of a right turn lane at the intersection of County Road C-2/ Hamline Avenue. For safety, we need to line up the lanes on this segment of County Road C-2 with the lanes west of Hamline. While the road west of Hamline is the same width as the road east of Hamline, the parking restrictions are different. Parking is permitted on the south side of the road west of Hamline. If we line up the centerlines, we would be unable to fit a right turn lane into the existing pavement width. As a result we recommend that the road be widened 3 feet to the north to accommodate a turn lane at this intersection.

- Lexington right turn lane: Staff is recommending the construction of right turn lane at the intersection of County Road C-2/Lexington Avenue. For safety, we need to line up the lanes on County Road C-2 east of Lexington. In order to line up the centerlines, we would be unable to fit a right turn lane into the existing pavement width. As a result we recommend that the road be widened 3 feet to the south to accommodate a turn lane at this intersection.
- Parking Restrictions: No Parking will be allowed on the north side of the street on the segment of County Road C-2 between Dunlap Avenue and Lexington Avenue. Parking will be allowed on the south side. This is the preference of the property owners in this segment and works well for lining up the centerlines of County Road C-2 across Lexington Avenue. A City Council resolution will be necessary to formally adopt the new parking restrictions east of Griggs. This will be brought to the City Council in the coming months.
- Storm Sewer improvements: Infiltration trenches and biofiltration basins will be constructed to address storm water rate and volume for the construction project. The City will get a Rice Creek Watershed District Permit for this project.
- Mailbox structure: the property owner at 1152 County Road C-2 has installed a large masonry mailbox in the right of way. No permit was issued for its construction. The mailbox will need to be removed from its current location on the cul- de- sac bulb and a new mailbox installed along the new curb line of the connected County Road C-2. However, the existing structure is less than 12 inches behind the curb and does not meet the clearance requirements of the City's mailbox standard. Mailboxes with supports that don't meet certain breakaway standards are considered hazards and do not conform to state statute on roads with speed limits over 40 mph. (State Statute 169.072 & Minn. Rule 8818.0300) The City and County have not taken a hard line of enforcement on the installation of these structures within the public right of way. However, they are a real safety concern for our plow drivers and for other vehicles travelling on the road. The property owner has asked that the City pay for the relocation or reconstruction of this mailbox as a part of the project. We estimate that the cost will be \$3000 to \$5000.
- 1120 County Road C-2: Staff has determined that the fence installed along the east property line of 1120 Lexington Avenue encroaches 7.5 feet into the public right of way. There is also a shed that was constructed without a building permit that encroaches into the right of way about 2 feet. The intersection sight lines meet all design standards and the fence is not within the intersection sight triangle. However, staff has received complaints from neighbors regarding sight lines at this intersection. Staff proposes to work with the property owner on relocating the fence out of the right of way and onto the property line. We have met with him once to discuss this safety issue. The relocation of this fence is estimated to cost \$10/ foot, provided the existing panels can be reused. A new fence would cost \$25/ foot. The relocation of the fence to meet code would also require the relocation of the shed and impact other features of the property owner's backyard.
- Scenario 2-Modify road profile between Merrill and Griggs: As discussed in the 2011 traffic study, the crest vertical curve at Merrill Street does not meet 30-mph design standards. This matter has been mitigated through the installation of an all way stop sign at this intersection. At the October 17 meeting, staff recommended that the road profile work be included in the future maintenance project anticipated in 5 to 10 years. To develop plans for the 2012 project, staff completed a field survey of the existing

conditions for the entire length of County Road C-2 between Hamline and Lexington. We developed a corridor design that meets MSA standards for both the short term and long term. The new design for the segment of the corridor between 1261 County Road C-2 and Griggs Street has a significantly lower cost than the one proposed in the County Road C-2 traffic study. The updated "Scenario 2" cost estimate is included in the financial discussion below. Including this segment in the 2012 project will mean less cost to the City and less disruption to the neighbors in the long run. The future project to lower the road profile in this street segment will mean the removal and reconstruction of the sidewalk and driveways included in the 2012 project. It will also mean that the property owners along County Road C-2 in this segment would only have one construction season disruption in the next 10 years. As a result of these items staff is recommending that we move ahead with the modifications to this segment this year.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

County Road C-2 from Snelling Avenue to Victoria Street is a street on the City's Municipal State Aid (MSA) system. City policy is to use MSA funds to fund construction work on MSA streets. No assessments are proposed for this project.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

What follows are updated cost estimates for the County Road C-2 construction project. These estimates include all roadway construction, driveway removal and replacement, boulevard restoration, tree removal, tree installation, and utility work necessary to complete the project described above. In the October 17 Council memo, we called the traffic study design "Scenario 2" and it included the Scenario 1 connection cost and the cost to reconstruct the road between Merrill and Griggs. For comparison purposes, both the 2011 Scenario 2 cost and the revised Scenario 2 cost in the table below, is only the cost to modify the profile of the road between Merrill and Griggs. The cost to construct the connection is the Scenario 1 cost. The revised estimates include a 10% contingency.

	2011 estimate	Revised
		Estimate
Scenario 1 (construct road connection between	\$131,000	\$128,000
Griggs and Dunlap St)		
Scenario 2 (modify road profile from Merrill St to	\$552,000	\$225,000
Griggs)		
Narrow road between Hamline and Merrill St	\$114,000	\$70,000
Construct 6 ft wide sidewalk (north side of road)	\$125,000	\$85,000
Streetscape Cost	\$50,400	\$20,000
Construct right turn lane at Hamline Ave	NA	\$8,000
Construct right turn lane at Lexington Ave	NA	\$8,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$972,400.00	\$544,000.00

The project would be funded using MSA money. Staff has determined that we have adequate funds to support the proposed project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the approval of the County Road C-2 plans with the following components:

- Construct Scenario 1- County Road C-2 connection between Griggs St and Dunlap St.
- Construct Scenario 2- Modify profile between Merrill Street and Griggs Street.

- Narrow road between Hamline and Merrill Street as shown on the plans.
 - Construct a 6 ft wide sidewalk on the north side of the road between Hamline and Fernwood Street.
 - Install street trees.
 - Install colored concrete cross walks at key pedestrian crossings
 - Construct right turn lane at Hamline
 - Construct right turn lane at Lexington
 - Work with the property owner at 1152 County Road C-2 on the mailbox relocation issues.
 - Work with property owner at 1120 County Road C-2 on relocating fence.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Approve plans for County Road C-2 Construction Project.

Prepared by: Attachments

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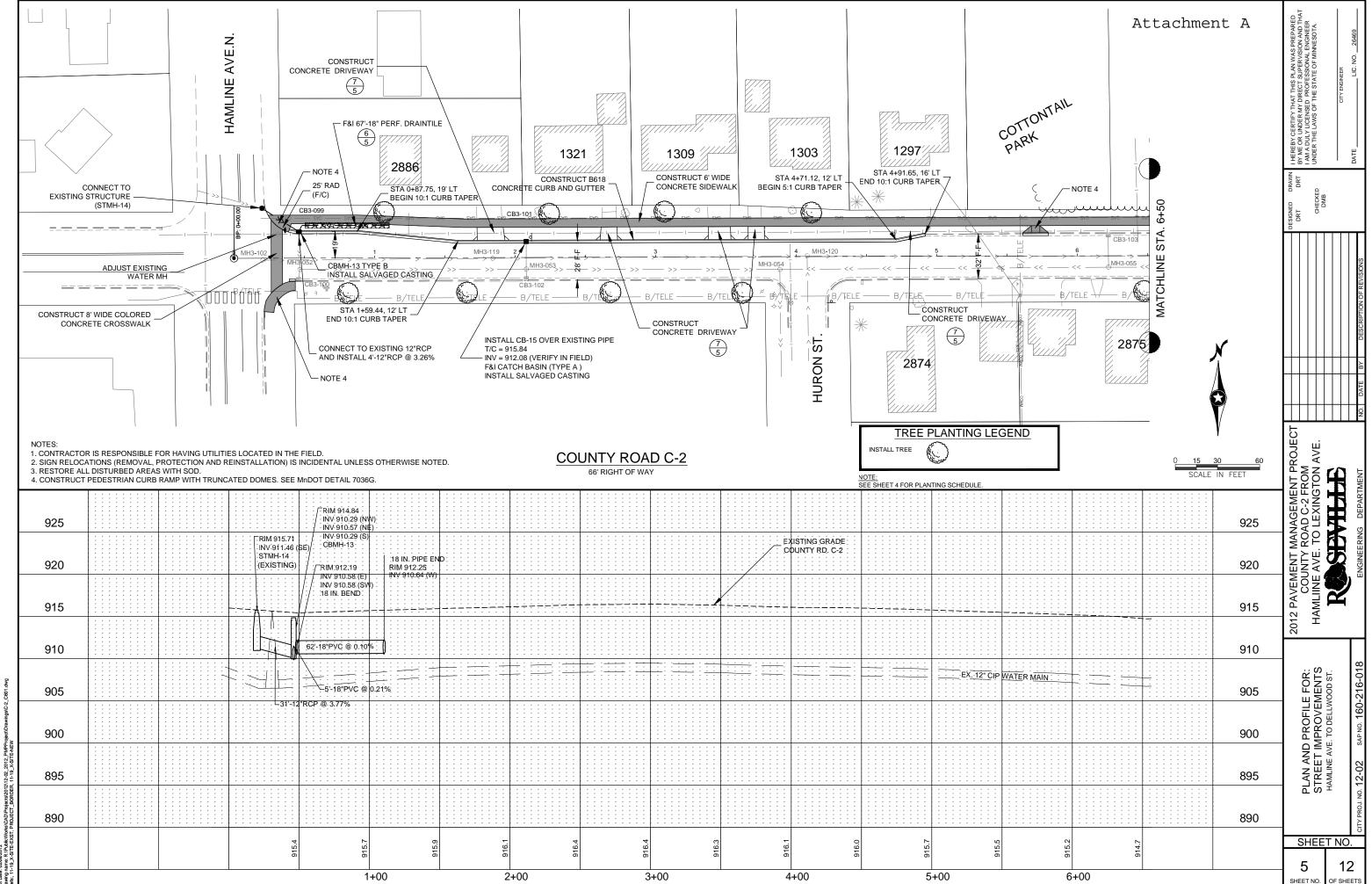
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Debra Bloom, City Engineer

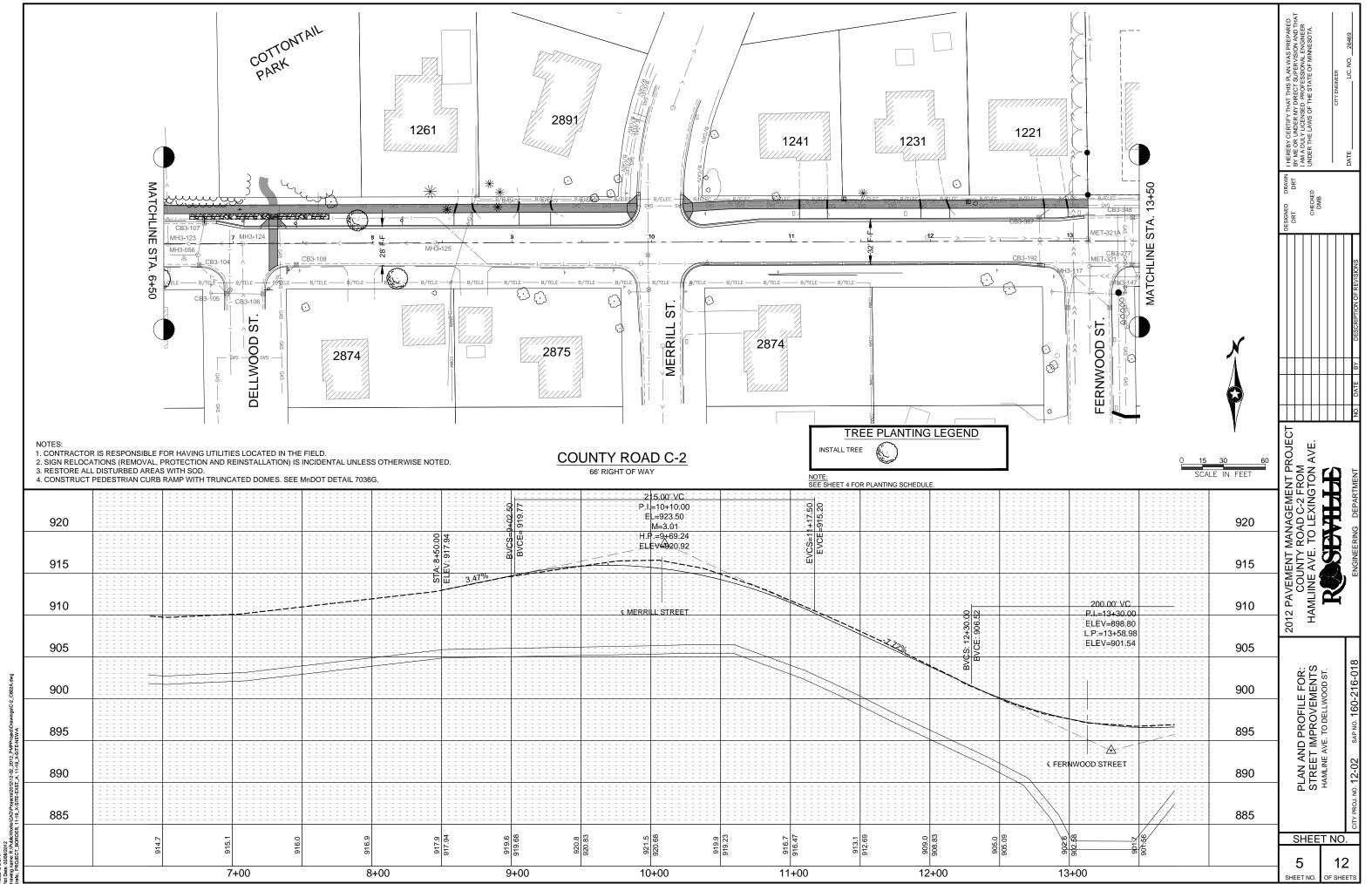
A: Construction Plans

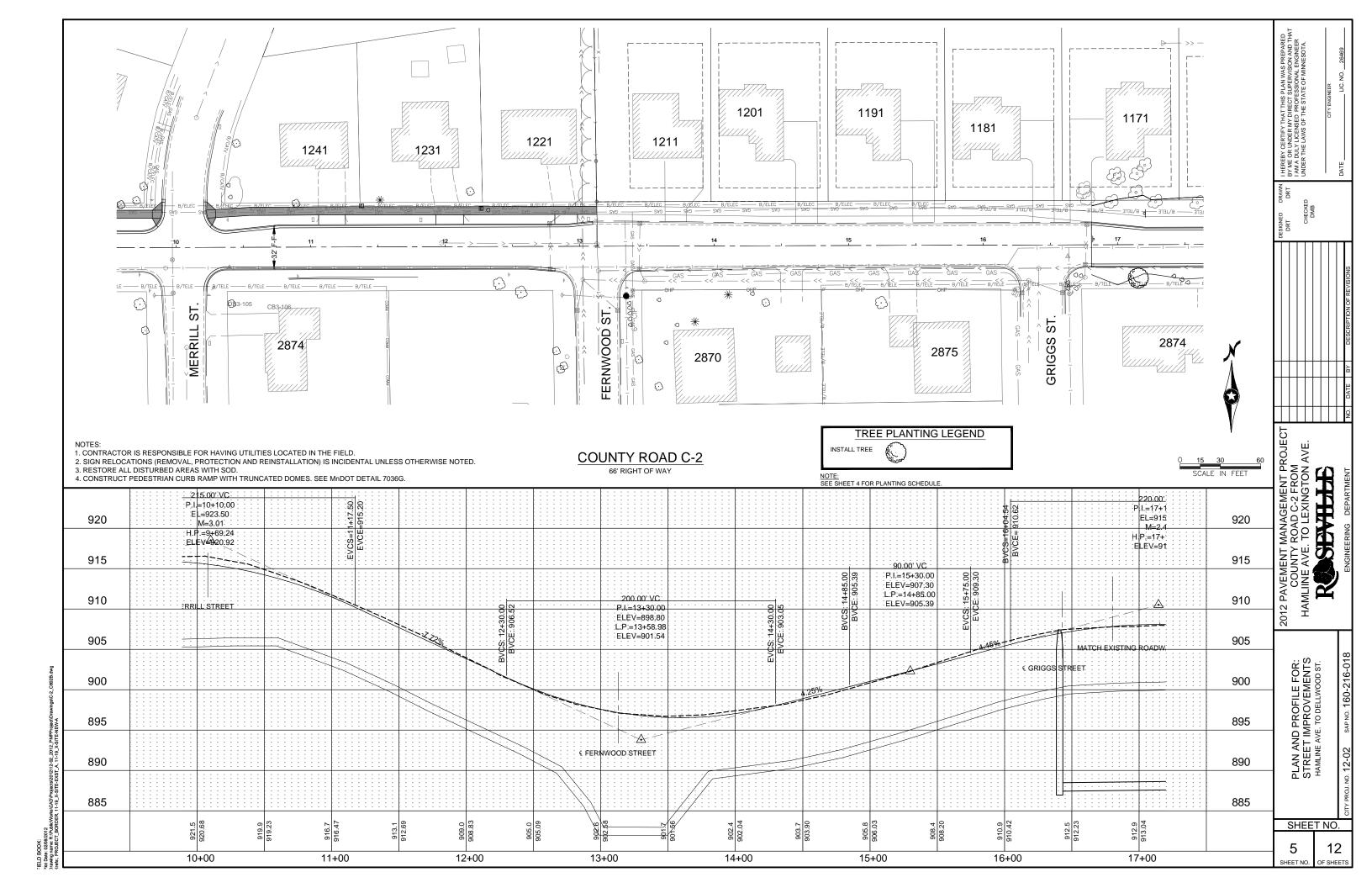
B: 1152 County Road C-2 Mailbox Photo

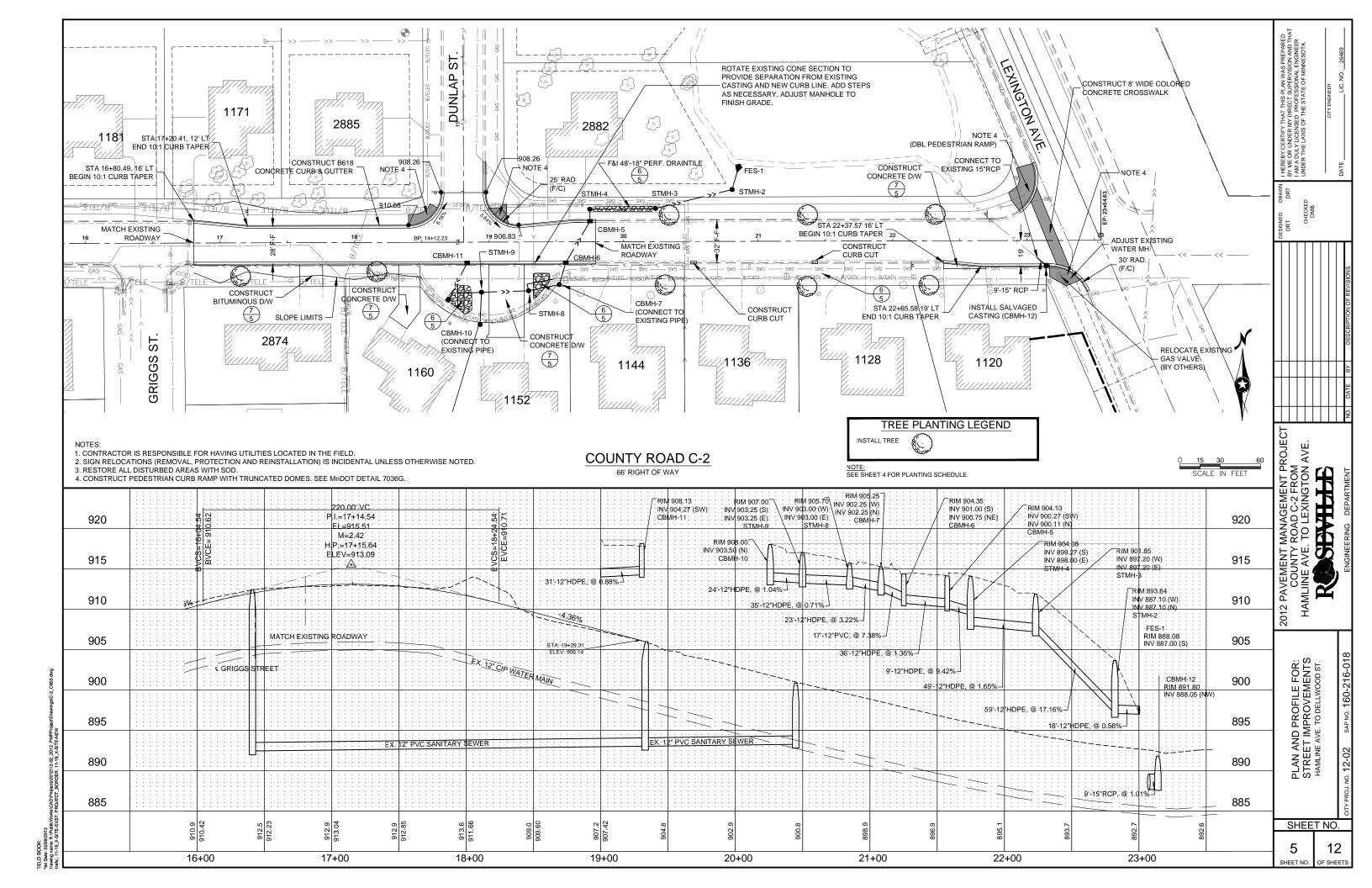
C: County Road C-2 and Lexington intersection photo



*IELD BOOK:









County Road C-2 and Lexington intersection photo

