



**WORK SESSION AGENDA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026  
6:30 PM  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Following the Council Meeting:**

- 1. Ellis Ditch & 6th Avenue SE Feasibility Study - Steven Lang**
  - a. Ellis Ditch & 6th Ave SE Feasibility Study
- 2. WWTP Expansion & Phosphorus Reduction Project - Steven Lang**
  - a. WWTP Expansion & Phosphorus Reduction Project, Change Order #12
- 3. Administrative Report**
- 4. Open Discussion**
- 5. Adjournment**



# Memorandum

**To:** City Council

**From:** Steven Lang, Public Works Director

**Date:** June 1, 2026

**Subject:** Ellis Ditch & 6th Ave SE Feasibility Study

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Ellis Ditch & 6th Avenue SE Feasibility Study

# Ellis Ditch & 6th Avenue SE Feasibility Study

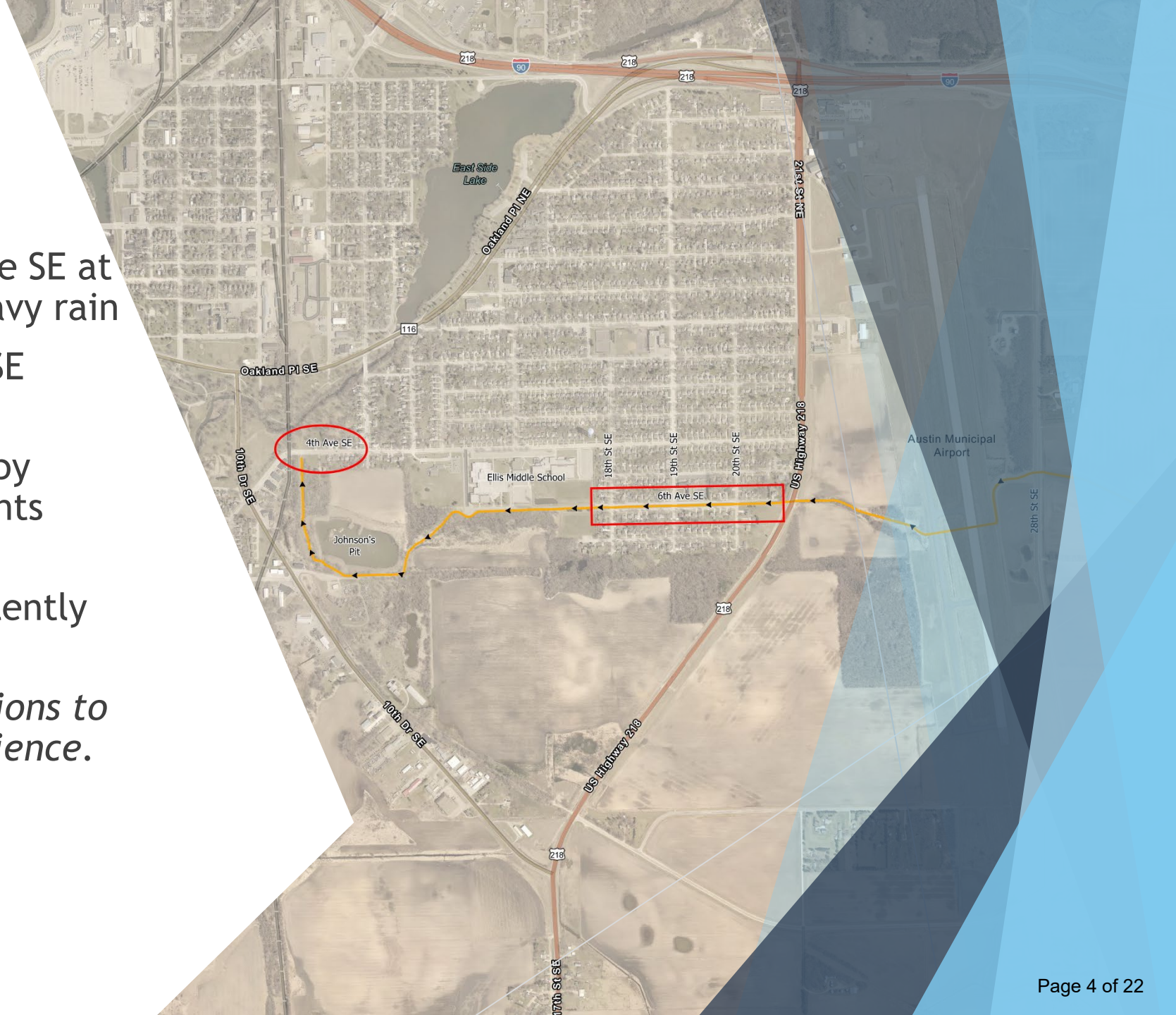
City of Austin, Minnesota  
City Council Presentation

*Prepared by WHKS & Co.*

# Why We're Here: The Problems

- ▶ Stormwater overtops 4th Avenue SE at the Ellis Ditch outlet during heavy rain
- ▶ Flooding along the 6th Avenue SE corridor from Ellis Ditch
- ▶ Sanitary sewer backups in nearby homes during large rainfall events
- ▶ Frequent maintenance needed because Ellis Ditch stays persistently wet

*The City asked WHKS to study options to reduce flooding and improve resilience.*



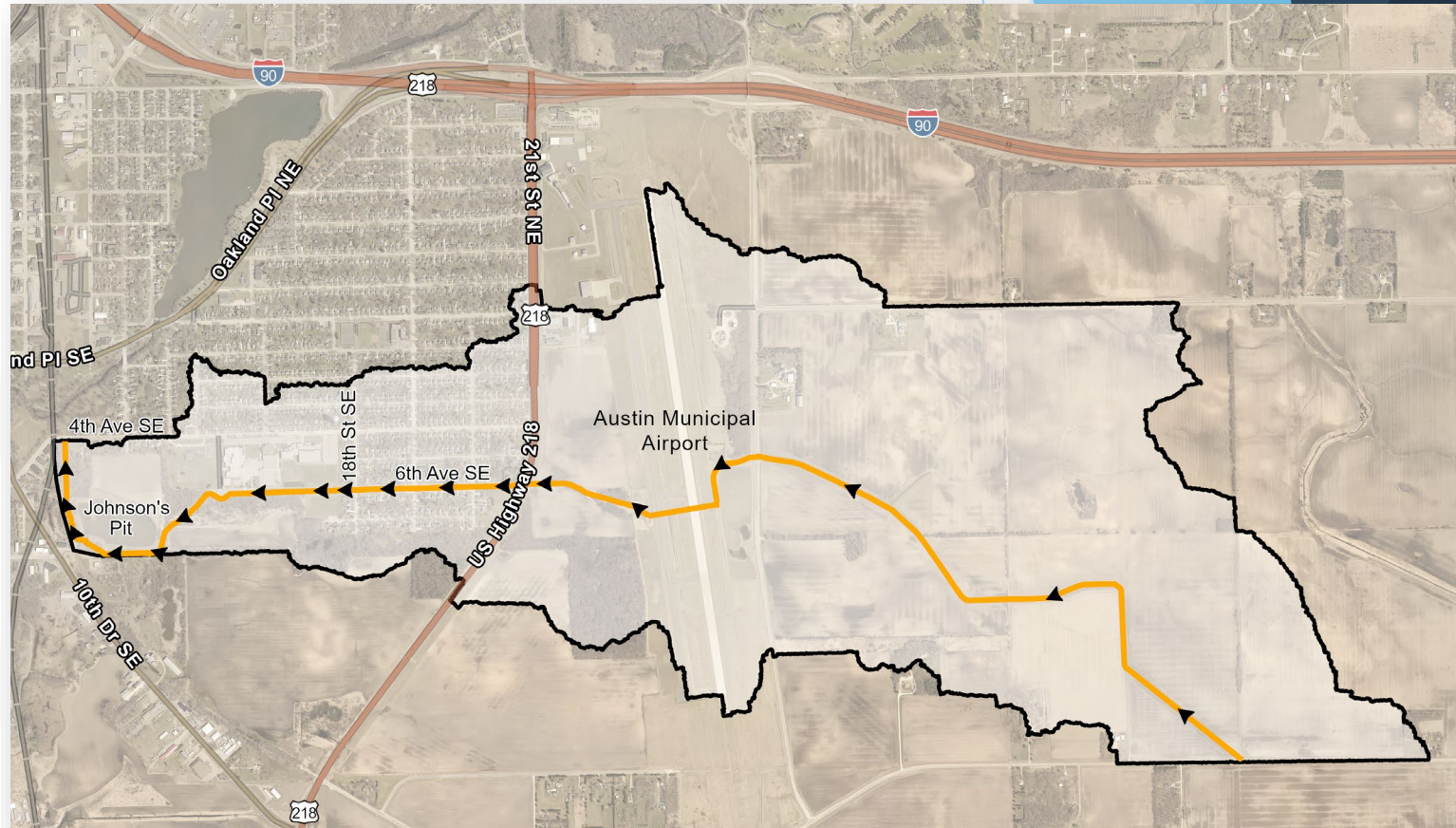
# About Ellis Ditch

Flows generally east to west, starting in farmland east of the Austin Municipal Airport

Travels under the airport runway, under Highway 218, along 6th Avenue SE, around Johnson's Pit, then north under 4th Avenue SE to Dobbins Creek

Drains roughly 650 acres of land

Not a county ditch and not a public waterway; downstream Dobbins Creek and the Cedar River are state-listed as impaired





# The City's Goals for This Study

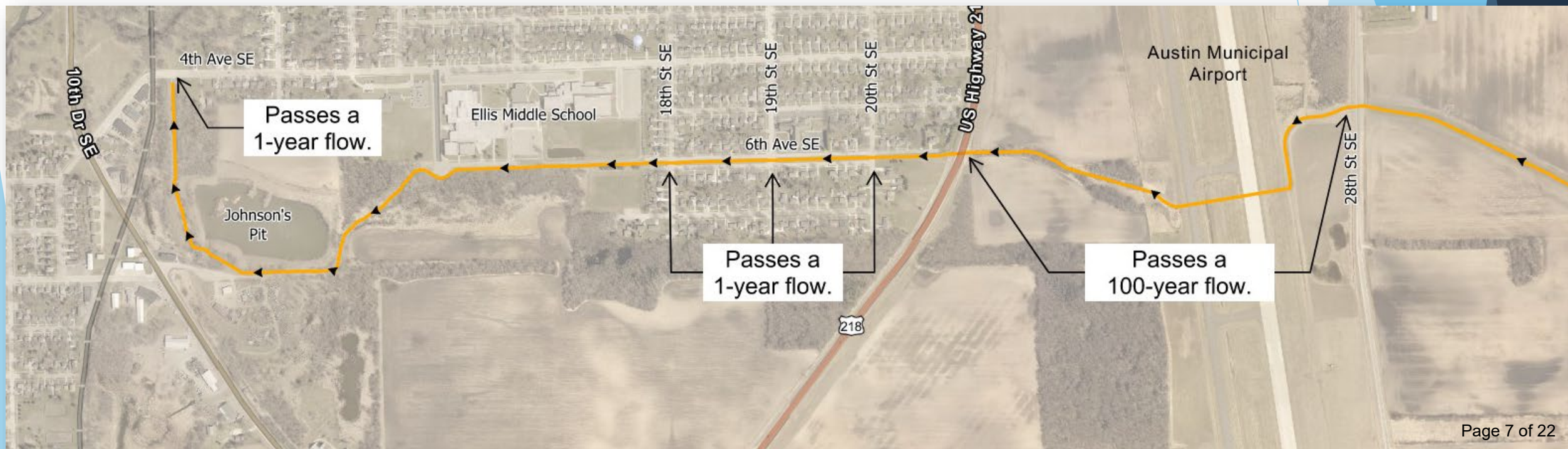
Goal 1: Convey the 10-year storm event without flooding the roads along the 6th Avenue SE corridor

Goal 2: Convey the 25-year storm event without flooding 4th Avenue SE at the Ellis Ditch outlet

A 10-year storm has a 10% chance of happening in any given year. A 25-year storm has a 4% chance.

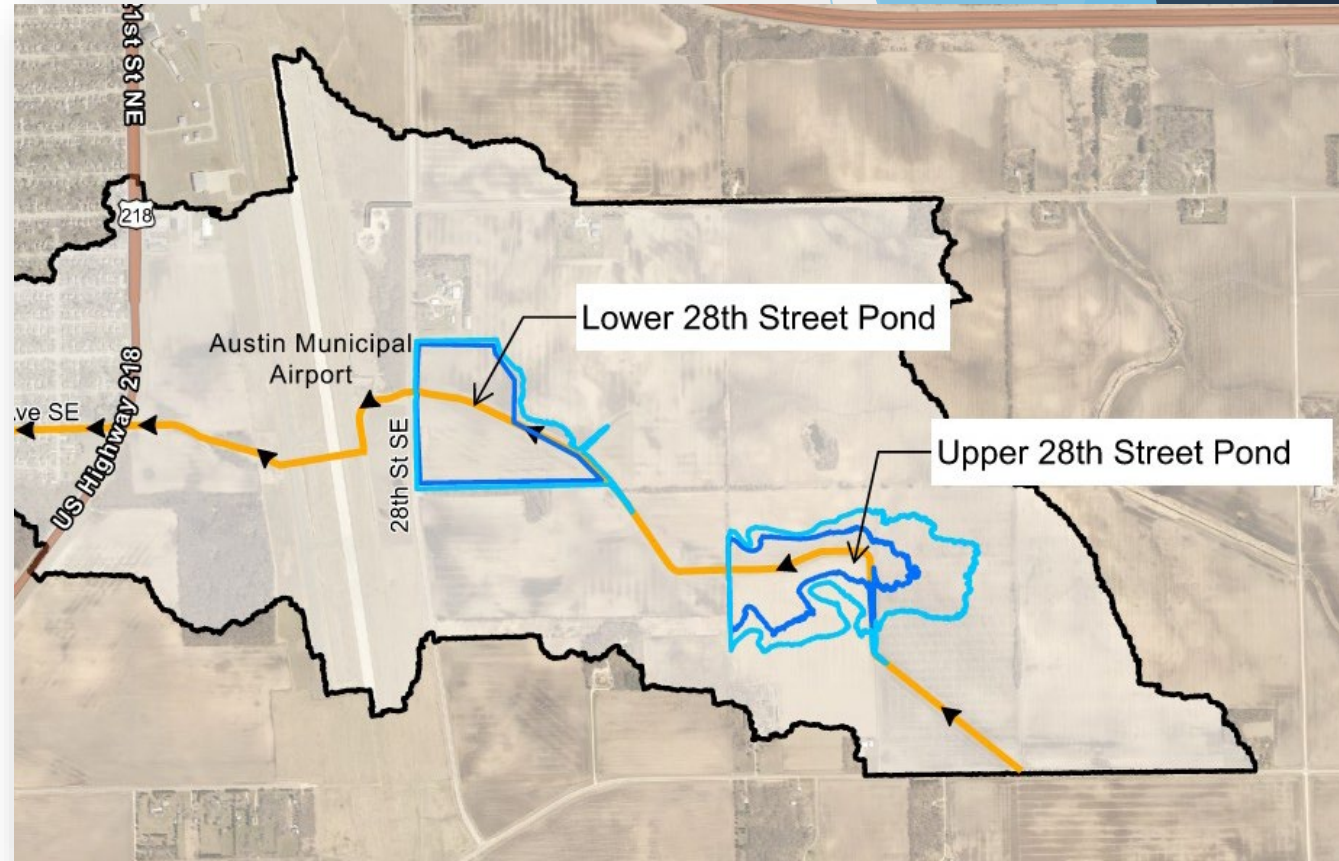
# What's Happening Today

- ▶ The 28th Street and Highway 218 culverts can handle a 100-year storm without overtopping
- ▶ The culverts at 20th, 19th, and 18th Streets along 6th Avenue SE can handle a 1-year storm without overtopping.
- ▶ The 48-inch storm sewer under 4th Avenue SE also can handle a 1-year storm without overtopping.
- ▶ Without improvements, roads in the corridor will continue to flood in moderately heavy rain



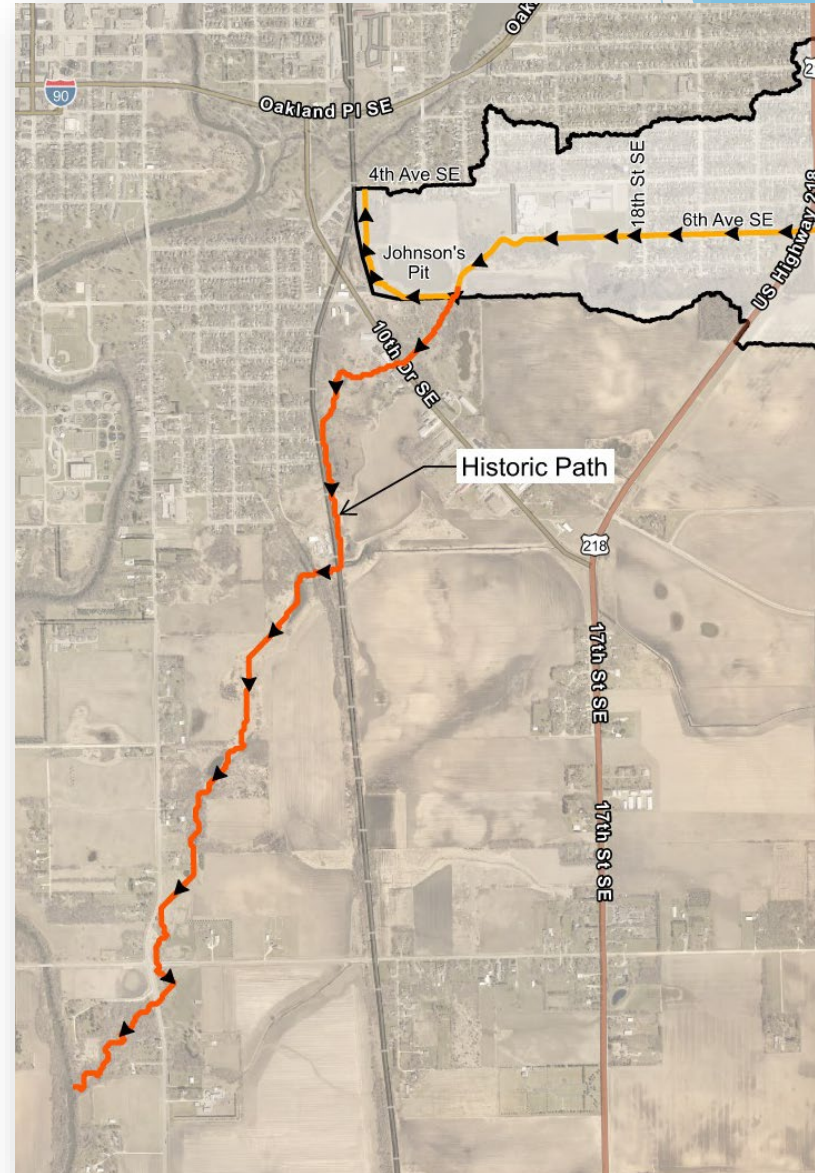
# Options We Considered

- ▶ Build upstream detention basins to slow and store water before it reaches the corridor
  - Upper 28th Street Pond
  - Lower 28th Street Pond
- ▶ Replace the undersized culverts and aging sanitary and stormwater utilities along 6th Avenue SE.
- ▶ Modify Johnson's Pit to create a detention basin to slow water before 4th Avenue SE
- ▶ Add a larger pipe under 4th Avenue SE alongside the existing one



# Options We Ruled Out – and Why

- ▶ Re-routing Ellis Ditch back to its historic path to the Cedar River: would require coordinating with 27 parcels and easements from 6 landowners – too costly and too complex
- ▶ Stormwater detention by itself (Upper and Lower 28th Basins): not enough storage to solve flooding without also upgrading culverts
- ▶ Converting 6th Avenue SE to a single roadway: 15 driveways would need new culverts or bridges
- ▶ Raising 4th Avenue SE: would harm adjacent homes and still wouldn't meet the 25-year goal
- ▶ Modifying the ditch's shape: flooding in the 6th Avenue SE corridor would continue

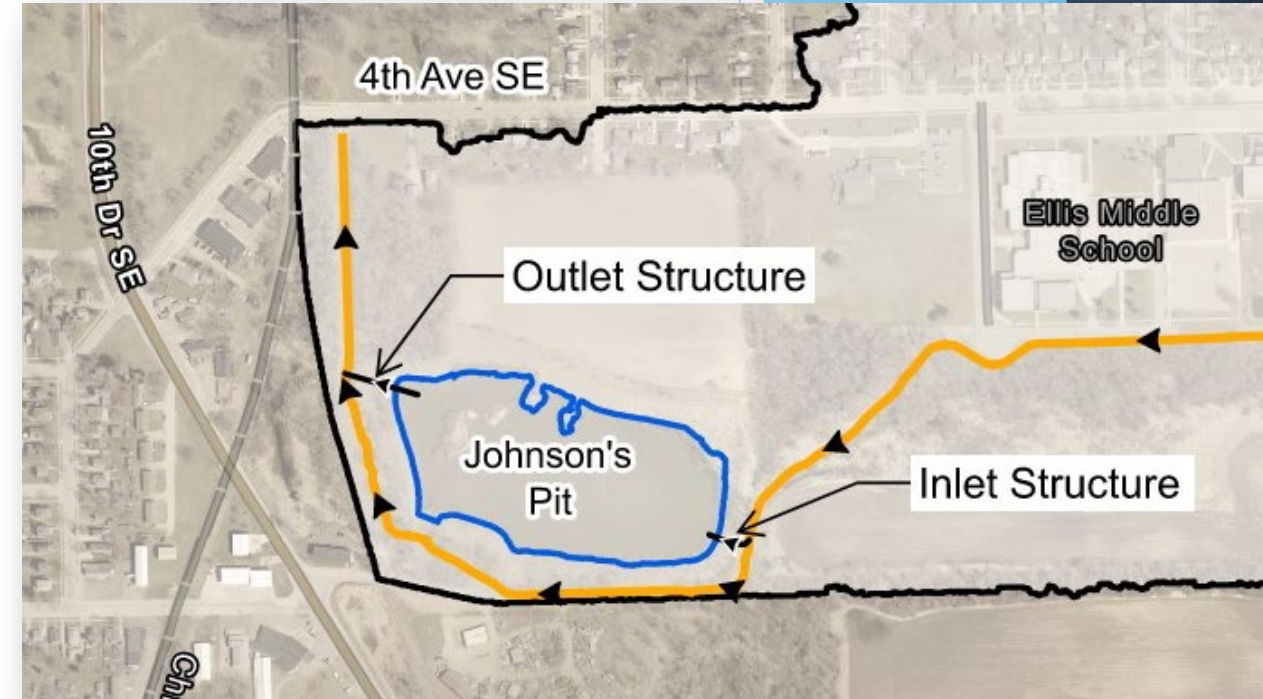


# Recommended Solution

Add a new 72-inch pipe alongside the existing one under 4th Avenue SE – \$355,000

Modify Johnson's Pit to create a 9-acre stormwater detention basin – \$165,000

Rebuild the 6th Avenue SE corridor: new box culverts at 18th, 19th, 20th Streets, replace sanitary and stormwater utilities, line the 12-inch sanitary sewer trunkline – \$3,685,000



**Total estimated cost = \$4,205,000**

- \$1,555,000 6<sup>th</sup> Ave SE reconstruction
- \$1,000,000 Ellis ditch drainage improvements
- \$1,000,000 Sanitary sewer improvements
- \$ 650,000 Engineering Design & Construction
- (\$ 400,000 Ellis ditch trail)

# Recommended Solution - Why?

- ▶ Meets both City goals: handles the 10-year storm on 6th Avenue SE and the 25-year storm at 4th Avenue SE
- ▶ Lowest cost option that meets both goals (compared to alternatives ranging from \$4.2M to \$9.4M)
- ▶ Reduces peak flows discharged to the Cedar River by about 33% – protects downstream water quality
- ▶ Detention basin captures sediment and pollutants, supporting watershed health
- ▶ Better aligned with statewide stormwater management goals
- ▶ May qualify for additional watershed-based grant funding



# What Comes Next



Secured Grant from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - \$100k

Using Grant for WHKS to complete preliminary design of Johnsons Pit and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue project.



Design new box culverts along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. These will be classified as bridges and added to the City's bridge inventory.



City will complete surveying and 6th Avenue SE design

Questions??



# Memorandum

**To:** City Council

**From:** Steven Lang, Public Works Director

**Date:** June 1, 2026

**Subject:** WWTP Expansion & Phosphorus Reduction Project, Change Order #12

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WWTP Expansion & Phosphorus Reduction Project, Change Order #12

As the project progresses, changes to the overall scope and construction plans occasionally arise. Many of these changes can be addressed without issue; however, some result in adjustments to the project cost. These cost changes may represent either project savings or additional expenses.

To maintain project progress, these cost adjustments are documented through a Work Change Directive (WCD). Each WCD is first reviewed by SEH as part of their construction inspection and contract administration responsibilities. It then undergoes a joint review by Hormel and City staff for final staff-level approval. While this description simplifies the process, each WCD typically involves substantial coordination, communication, and problem-solving before approval is reached.

Approved WCDs are compiled into a draft Change Order on a quarterly basis. These Change Orders are then presented to the City Council for official approval. Once approved, the overall project budget is updated and the items become eligible for payment.

Attached for your review is a summary of Change Order 012.

- WCD 113, (\$ 6,867) Str 10, Electrical Vault Mods
- WCD 121, (\$411,963) Site Work and Grading Mods
- WCD 122, \$ 3,879 Str 69, Screw Press Stand Tariffs
- WCD 123, \$ 51,749 Site Work Undocumented Concrete Removal
- WCD 124, \$ 6,197 Str 60, Water Line Pressure Mods

- WCD 125, \$ 15,903 Str 02, CO and NO2 Monitoring Addition
- WCD 126, \$ 17,668 Str 12, P16 Pipe Encasement

I would request approval of Change Order 012 for a credit in the amount of (\$323,434), which includes 7 WCD's valuing a (\$175,301.23) credit to the Domestic budget and a (\$148,132.77) credit to the Industrial budget.

	Work Change Directive (WCD)	100% Domestic	Combined		100% Industrial
			54.2% Domestic	45.8% Industrial	
Change Order #12 (Draft)	WCD-113		\$ (3,721.91)	\$ (3,145.09)	
	WCD-121		\$ (223,283.95)	\$ (188,679.05)	
	WCD-122		\$ 2,102.42	\$ 1,776.58	
	WCD-123		\$ 28,047.96	\$ 23,701.04	
	WCD-124		\$ 3,358.77	\$ 2,838.23	
	WCD-125		\$ 8,619.43	\$ 7,283.57	
	WCD-126		\$ 9,576.06	\$ 8,091.94	
	<b>SubTotal</b>		<b>\$ (175,301.23)</b>	<b>\$ (148,132.77)</b>	

WWTP Expansion and Phosphorus Reduction Project		Domestic	Industrial	Total
<b>Original Construction Bid</b>		<b>\$ 47,518,974.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,489,026.00</b>	<b>\$ 100,008,000.00</b>
Change Order #1 (9)	SubTotal	\$ 31,154.14	\$ (273,541.14)	\$ (242,387.00)
Change Order #2 (25)	SubTotal	\$ 361,462.13	\$ 113,175.87	\$ 474,638.00
Change Order #3 (23)	SubTotal	\$ 426,436.28	\$ 426,348.72	\$ 852,785.00
Change Order #4 (9)	SubTotal	\$ 407,886.86	\$ 345,951.14	\$ 753,838.00
Change Order #5 (12)	SubTotal	\$ 249,293.99	\$ 242,404.01	\$ 491,698.00
Change Order #6 (8)	SubTotal	\$ 6,431.28	\$ 678,198.72	\$ 684,630.00
Change Order #7 (9)	SubTotal	\$ 136,274.63	\$ 122,580.37	\$ 258,855.00
Change Order #8 (5)	SubTotal	\$ 51,930.88	\$ 27,773.12	\$ 79,704.00
Change Order #9 (7)	SubTotal	\$ 80,712.32	\$ 68,203.40	\$ 148,915.72
Change Order #10 (6) less WCD 107	SubTotal	\$ 14,305.79	\$ 84,629.21	\$ 98,935.00
Change Order #11 (8)	SubTotal	\$ 62,943.00	\$ 57,649.00	\$ 120,592.00
Change Order #12 (Draft)	SubTotal	\$ (175,301.23)	\$ (148,132.77)	\$ (323,434.00)
<b>Total WCD's</b>		<b>\$ 1,653,530.06</b>	<b>\$ 1,745,239.66</b>	<b>\$ 3,398,769.72</b>
<b>Construction Amount</b>		<b>\$ 49,172,504.06</b>	<b>\$ 54,234,265.66</b>	<b>\$ 103,406,769.72</b>
Cost Increase		3.48%	3.32%	3.40%

<b>Construction Engineering Services</b>			
<b>SEH Construction Admin</b>	\$ 5,190,000.00		\$ 5,190,000.00
<b>AET Materials Testing</b>	\$ 127,958.00	\$ 141,342.00	\$ 269,300.00
WCD 107, Rice Lake Construction Group, Construction Admin Credit, 1-yr Extension	\$ (448,000.00)		\$ (448,000.00)
Construction Admin Admendment No. 1, 1-year Extension	\$ 799,408.00		\$ 799,408.00
SEH Waiver Release, Construction Admin Credit, 1-yr Extension	\$ (176,000.00)		\$ (176,000.00)
Construction Admin Admendment No. 1, Addition Services	\$ 240,592.00		\$ 240,592.00
<b>Engineering Services SubTotal</b>	<b>\$ 5,733,958.00</b>	<b>\$ 141,342.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,875,300.00</b>
<b>Total Project Amount</b>	<b>\$ 54,906,462.06</b>	<b>\$ 54,375,607.66</b>	<b>\$ 109,282,069.72</b>
AET Material Testing to be reconciled at project's end.			

# Change Order

No. 12

Date of Issuance: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Project:</u> WWTF Expansion and Phosphorus Reduction Project	<u>Owner:</u> City of Austin	<u>Owner's Contract No.:</u> N/A
<u>Contract:</u> WWTF Expansion and Phosphorus Reduction Project	<u>Date of Contract:</u> August 1, 2022	
<u>Contractor:</u> Rice Lake Construction Group	<u>Engineer's Project No.:</u> AUSTN 169135	

**The following change(s) will be made to the Contract Documents:**

Item No.	D/C/I*	Description, Reason, Contract Price and Time Change
1	C	<p><b><u>WCD-113 Description:</u></b> Site Electric Modifications at Structure 10 – furnish and install MV conduit and wires (CE9P-1 and CE9P-16) from Austin Utility 13.8KV Pad Mounted switchgear 1 (AU-PMS-1) and 2 (AU-PMS-2) to existing electrical vault west of Structure 10, through the existing electrical vault, and then through existing conduits to existing 750KVA transformers at Structure 10. Install concrete duct bank around conduits in vault, then complete vault demolition per COP-142 REV 1 and the Contract Documents.</p> <p><b><u>Reason:</u></b> This electrical installation modification simplifies the installation of electrical lines CE9P-1 and CE9P-16 and reduces the project cost to the Owner.</p> <p><b><u>Price Change (Combined):</u></b> (\$6,867.00)</p> <p><b><u>Time Change:</u></b> 0 days</p>
2	C	<p><b><u>WCD-121 Description:</u></b> Site Work and Grading Modifications – furnish labor, materials, and equipment for site work and grading modifications described in RFP-067.</p> <p><b><u>Reason:</u></b> The Owner, Contractor and Engineer met, reviewed the project site work, and identified efficiencies for landscaping, excavation, bituminous pavement, grading, storm sewer structures and piping, curb and gutter, sidewalks, Class 5, select granular (sand), top soil, seeding, etc. These changes reduce the project cost and provide a more efficient and functional site for pedestrians, vehicles, and stormwater management..</p> <p><b><u>Price Change (Combined):</u></b> (\$411,963.00)</p> <p><b><u>Time Change:</u></b> 0 days</p>

3	C	<p><b><u>WCD-122 Description:</u></b> Structure 69 Screw Press Stand Tariffs – add payment of tariffs on Screw Press stands that shipped separately from other Screw Press equipment.</p> <p><b><u>Reason:</u></b> The tariff claimed is the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) Reciprocal tariff that went into effect April 5, 2025. The entry/import dates are after April 5, 2025. The Contract General Conditions 7.10.A and 7.11.C generally state the Contractor shall pay all taxes, but if there is a law or regulation change after bid (or signed contract), Contractor can submit a COP for the additional taxes. For this COP, Contractor did not charge a mark-up on equipment.</p> <p><b><u>Price Change (Combined):</u></b> \$3,879.00</p> <p><b><u>Time Change:</u></b> 0 days</p>
4	C	<p><b><u>WCD-123 Description:</u></b> Site Work Undocumented Concrete Removal – furnish labor, equipment, and materials to remove the remaining buried concrete structure (Abandoned Final Filter outlet structure slab) on the east end of Structure 30 that was not documented on the Contract Plans.</p> <p><b><u>Reason:</u></b> During exploratory excavation for Structure 30, the Contractor encountered a buried concrete structure that interfered with the project work and submitted RFI-048. The Owner directed the undocumented buried concrete to be removed. It is a differing subsurface condition eligible for a Contract Price adjustment. Due to construction work sequencing, only a portion of this buried concrete was removed via WCD-093. WCD-123 removes the remaining buried concrete.</p> <p><b><u>Price Change (Combined):</u></b> \$51,749.00</p> <p><b><u>Time Change:</u></b> 0 days</p>
5	C	<p><b><u>WCD-124 Description:</u></b> Structure 60 Water Line Pressure Modifications – furnish labor, materials, and equipment for W2 water line installation modifications detailed in COP-115.</p> <p><b><u>Reason:</u></b> During start-up of the Gravity Belt Thickeners (GBTs), the water pressure for the polymer injection system was too low due to multiple issues including multiple backflow preventors in series, GBT wash water demand, and uninstalled new water service. In order to complete start-up of the GBTs in a timely manner, the Contractor requested W2 piping modifications on a time and material basis to boost and provide adequate water pressure to the polymer system. This change allowed completion of the GBT start-up.</p> <p><b><u>Price Change (Combined):</u></b> \$6,197.00</p> <p><b><u>Time Change:</u></b> 0 days</p>

6	C	<p><b>WCD-125 Description:</b> Structure 02 CO and NO2 Monitoring Addition – furnish labor, materials and equipment to install CO and NO2 sensors and controls in the garage bays of the Maintenance Building.</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> The Owner’s long-term use plan for the garage bays in Structure 02 have not been finalized, but Owner wants to maintain the option to use the two (2) garage bays for vehicle maintenance. This requires the installation of CO and NO2 monitors and controls in the garage bays to meet code.</p> <p><b>Price Change (Industrial):</b> \$15,903.00</p> <p><b>Time Change:</b> 0 days</p>
7	C	<p><b>WCD-126 Description:</b> P16 Pipe Encasement at Structure 12 – furnish labor, materials and equipment to anchor and encase the existing unsupported, unencased lead joint connected 90 degree elbow on the 30-inch diameter P16 Primary Influent (PI) pipe at the junction with Structure 12 (Vortex Grit).</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> The Contract Documents include connection to the existing 30-inch PI pipe several feet downstream of Structure 12 to redirect PI flow to the new Primary Clarifiers. The Contractor was requested to confirm the condition of the existing 30-inch PI pipe and fittings the will remain in service, and discovered the unsupported, unencased lead joint 30-inch 90 degree elbow. The Contractor was directed on a time and materials basis to anchor and encase the existing 30-inch 90 degree elbow to reduce the risk of a future pipe failure.</p> <p><b>Price Change (Combined):</b> \$17,668.00</p> <p><b>Time Change:</b> 0 days</p>

\* D = Domestic, C=Combined, I=Industrial

**Attachments (list documents supporting change):**

WCD-113  
WCD-121  
WCD-122  
WCD-123  
WCD-124  
WCD-125  
WCD-126

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**Contract Price Change – Domestic and Industrial Split**

Work Change Directive (WCD)	100% Domestic	Combined		100% Industrial
		54.2% Domestic	45.8% Industrial	
WCD-113		(\$3,721.91)	\$(3,145.09)	
WCD 121		(\$223,283.95)	\$(188,679.05)	
WCD 122		\$2,102.42	\$1,776.58	
WCD 123		\$28,047.96	\$23,701.04	
WCD 124		\$3,358.77	\$2,838.23	
WCD 125		\$8,619.43	\$7,283.57	
WCD 126		\$9,576.06	\$8,091.94	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>(\$175,301.23)</b>	<b>(\$148,132.77)</b>	

**Contract Status:**

Original Contract Price	\$100,008,000.00
Previous Contract Price Revisions (Through Change Order: 11)	\$3,274,203.72
Current Contract Price	\$103,282,203.72
Price Change (this Change Order)	(\$323,434.00)
<b>Revised Contract Price</b>	<b>\$102,958,769.72</b>
<b>Original Contract Times (days)</b>	
Substantial Completion	1,120
Final Completion	1,370
<b>Previous Contract Time Revisions (days)</b>	
Substantial Completion	404
Final Completion	373
<b>Current Contract Times (days)</b>	
Substantial Completion	1,524
Final Completion	1,743
<b>Time Changes (this Change Order, days)</b>	
Substantial Completion	0
Final Completion	0
<b>Revised Contract Times (days)</b>	
Substantial Completion	1,524
Final Completion	1,743

<u>Recommended for Approval by Engineer:</u> Name: John Glatzmaier, Project Manager  Signature:	Date:
<u>Approved for Owner (City of Austin, MN) by:</u> Name:  Signature:	Date:
<u>Approved for Hormel Foods Corp. (if applicable) by:</u> Name:  Signature:	Date:
<u>Approved for Contractor by:</u> Name:  Signature:	Date: