



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 16, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

CC: Dave Bennett, Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Monte Nelson, Police Chief; Mitzi Baker, Community Development Director; Deb Little, City Clerk; Michelle Mahowald, Communications & Human Resources Director; Teresa Jensen, Director of Library and Information Technology Resources; Chris Hood, City Attorney

From: Ben Martig, City Administrator

RE: "Supplemental Agenda Background Memo" for June 16, 2020 No. 2.

Summary Report:

The following is an update on agenda items as supplemental background agenda information made available for Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

Item 5 – Consider Community In Kind Grant Support.

This item has been removed from the agenda.

Item 23 – Consider clarification of motion to close downtown streets and review of plans for pedestrian enhancements.

Please see attached revised PowerPoint for this item.

Considerations for Vehicle Closure & Enhanced Features for Street Space

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

06/16/2020



OPTION A

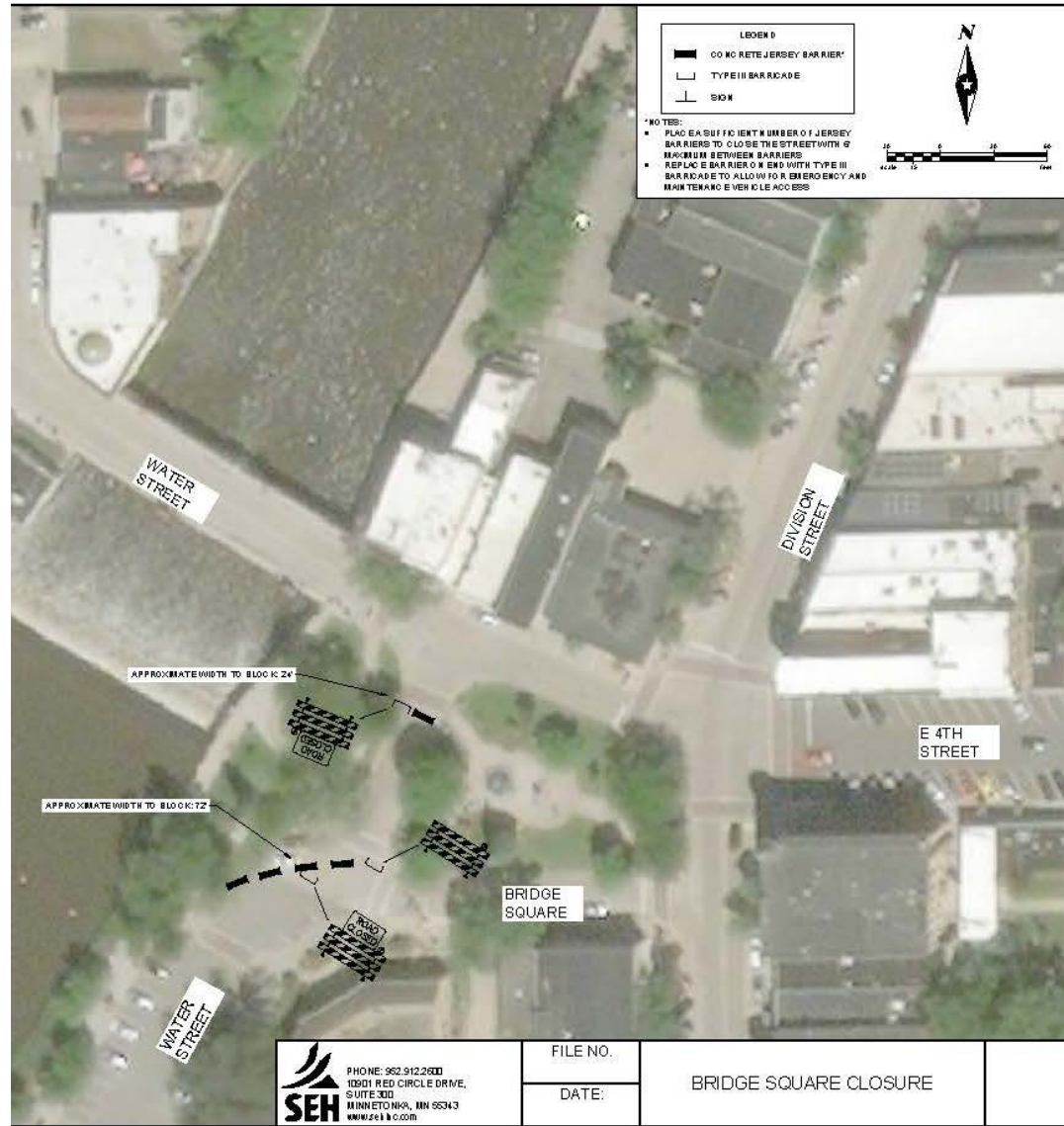
Water Street Closure Option



Motion to temporarily close Water Street to vehicles from Bridge Street to Fourth Street through August 7th and to be reviewed for possible extension at the first regular council meeting in August.

OPTION A

Water Street Closure Option

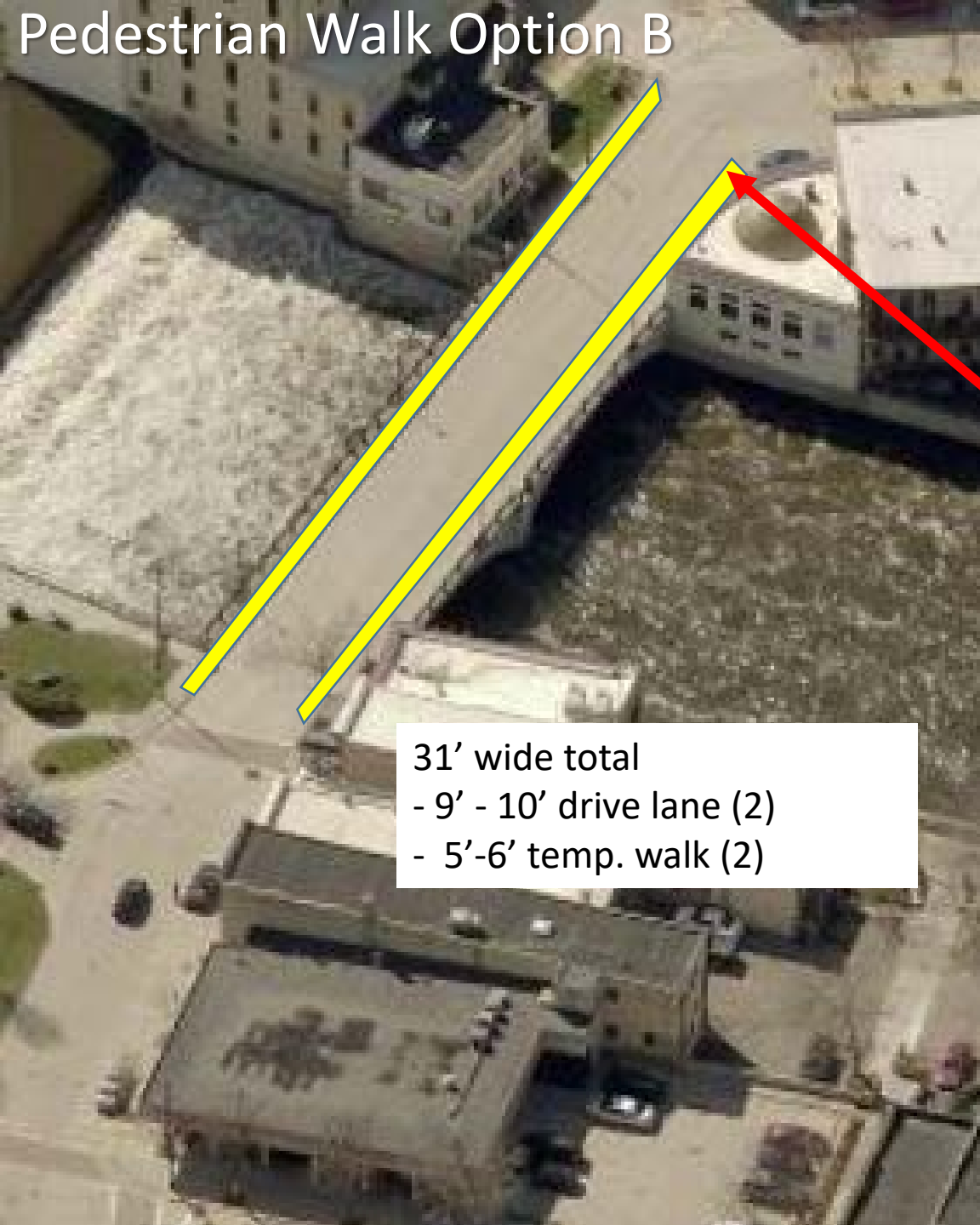


**OPTION B (in addition to consideration of Option A)
Pedestrian Walk Lanes on Fourth Street Bridge with Driving Lanes Open**

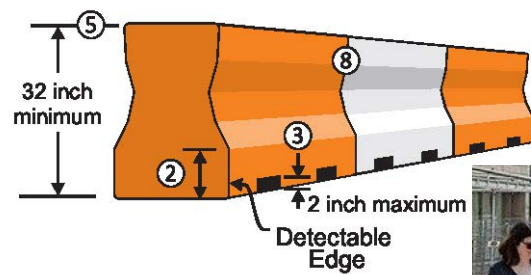


Motion to add temporary pedestrian walking lanes on the Fourth Street Bridge with vehicle lanes to remain open from August 7th and to be reviewed for possible extension at the first regular council meeting in August.

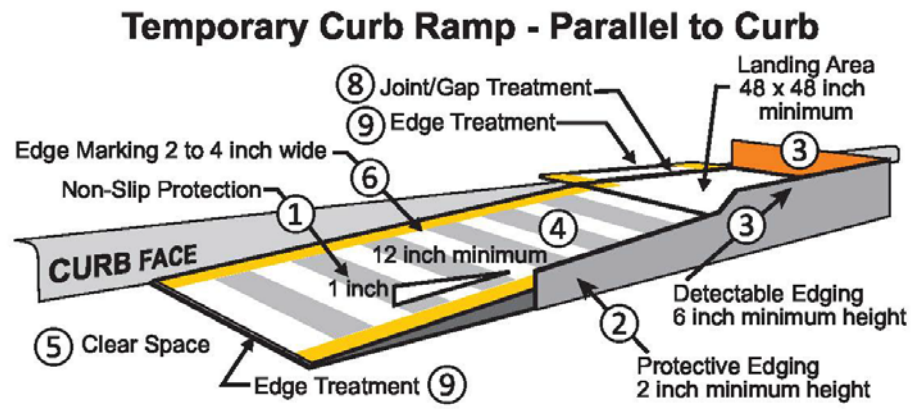
Pedestrian Walk Option B



31' wide total
 - 9' - 10' drive lane (2)
 - 5'-6' temp. walk (2)

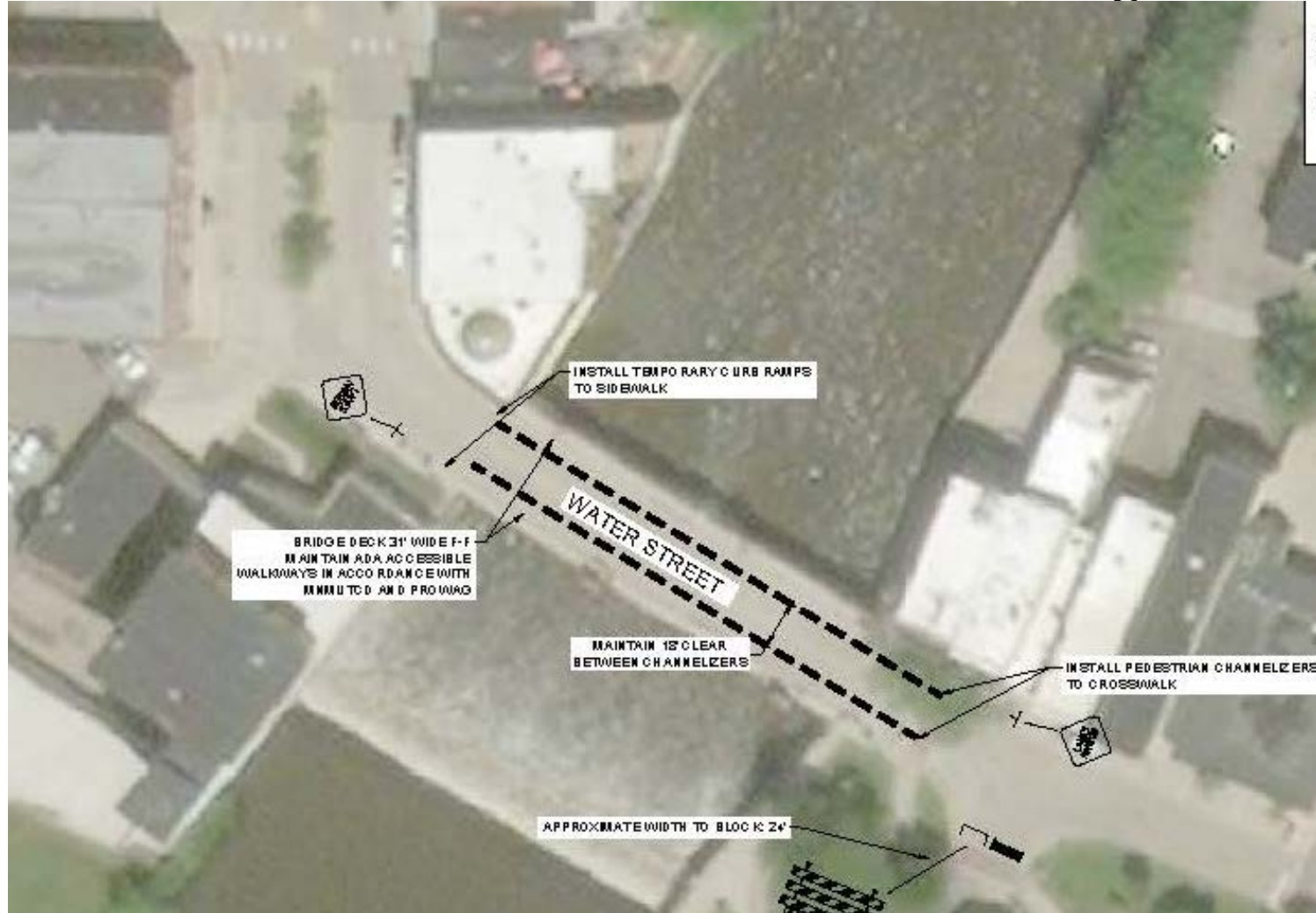


Pedestrian Channelizer
 using a Temporary Barrier



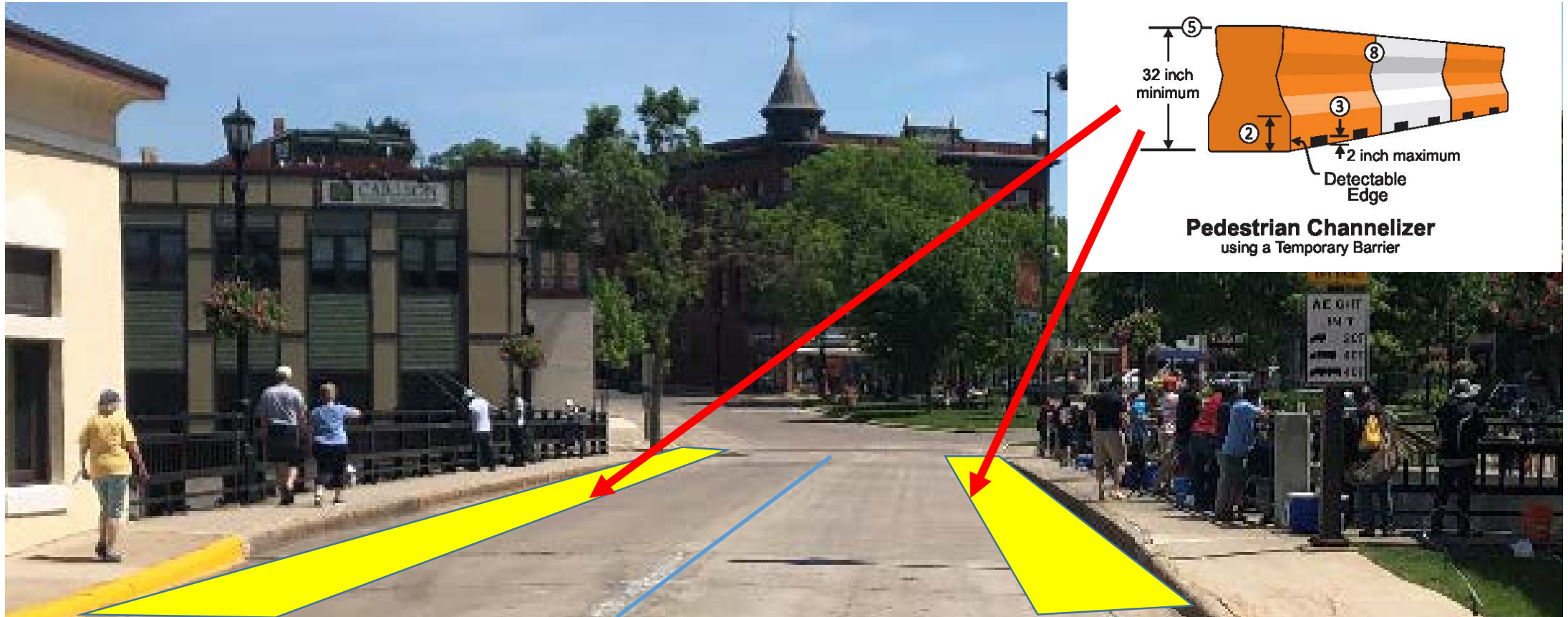
Temporary pedestrian barrier to be added for separation from roadway.

OPTION B (in addition to consideration of Option A) Pedestrian Walk Lanes on Fourth Street Bridge with Driving Lanes Open



OPTION B

Water Street Bridge: Pedestrian Walk Lanes on Fourth Street Bridge with Driving Lanes Open



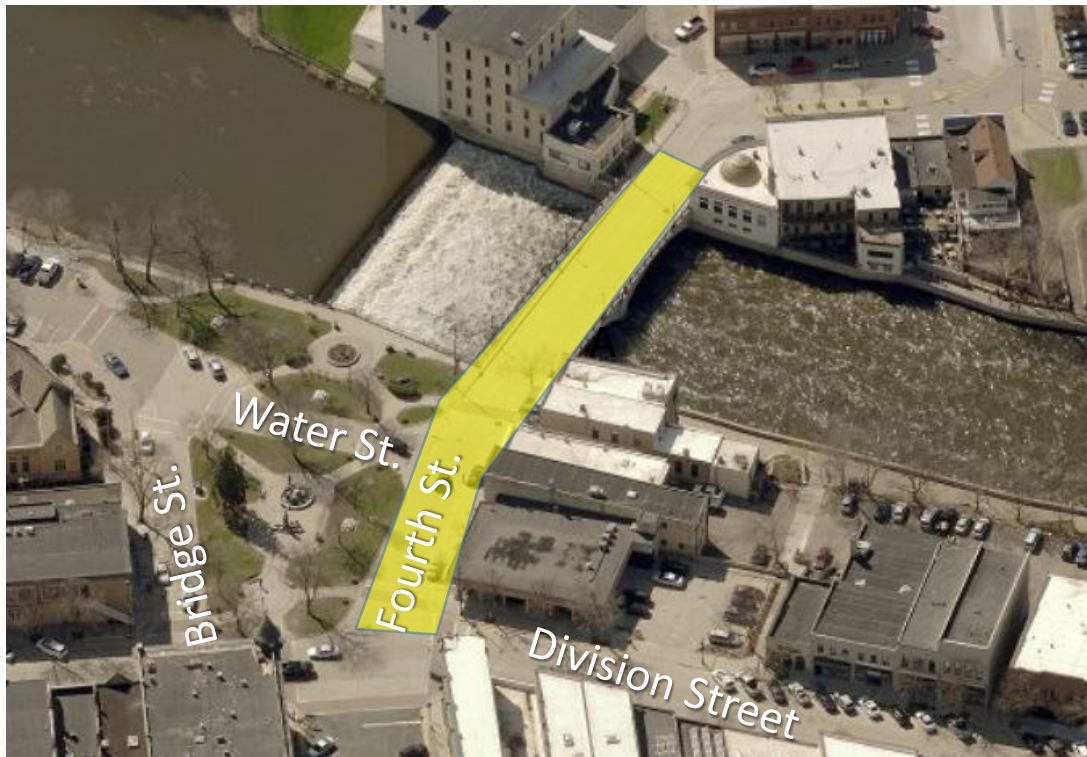
5'-6'

9'-10'

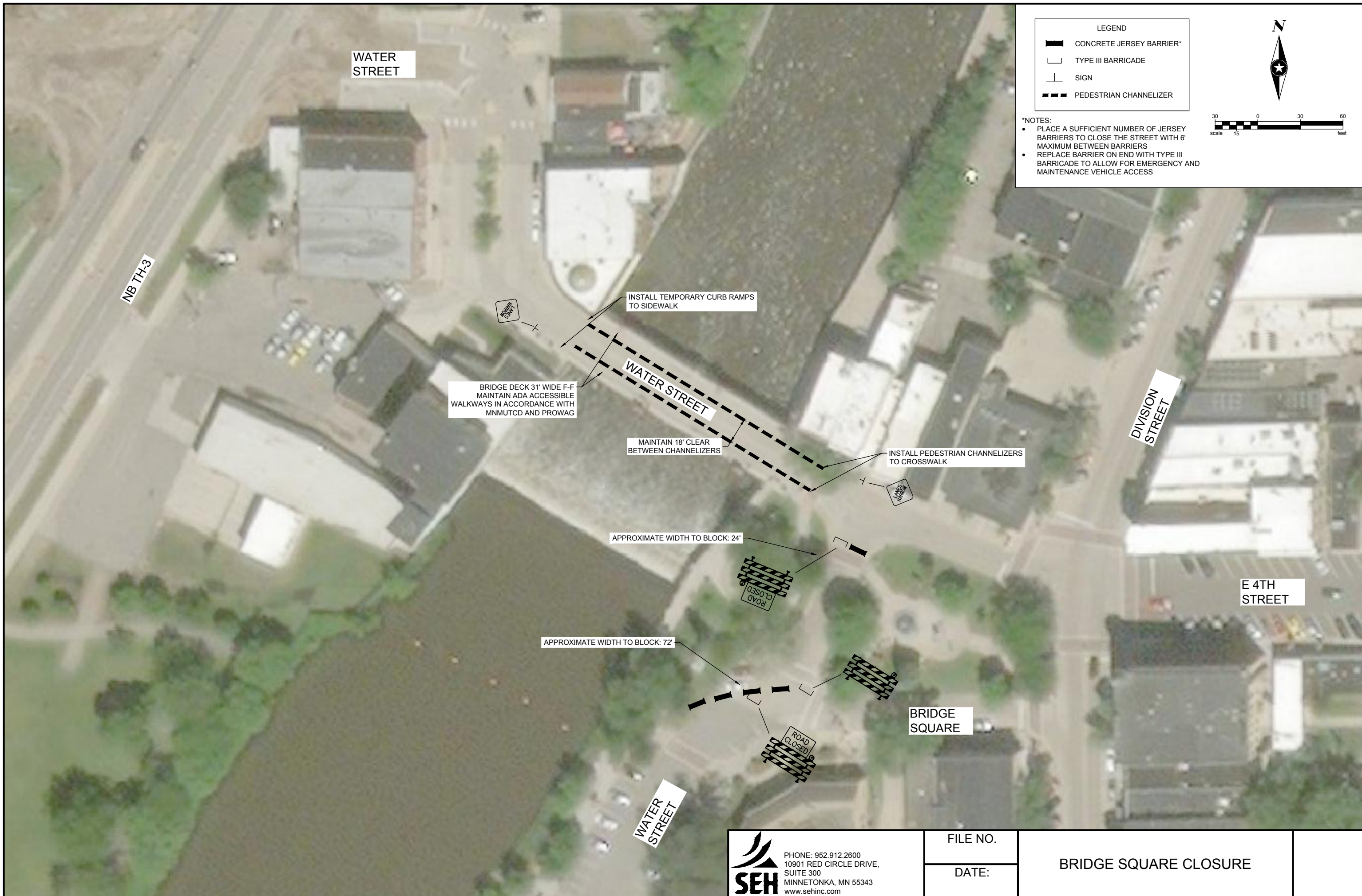
9'-10'

5'-6'

OPTION C (alternative to Option B) Vehicle Closure & Enhanced Features for Street Space



Motion to temporarily close the street to vehicular traffic from Division and Fourth Street to the west side of the Fourth Street Bridge through August 7th and to be reviewed for possible extension at the first regular council meeting in August.



LEGEND

	CONCRETE JERSEY BARRIER*
	TYPE III BARRICADE
	SIGN
	PEDESTRIAN CHANNELIZER

- *NOTES:
- PLACE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF JERSEY BARRIERS TO CLOSE THE STREET WITH 6' MAXIMUM BETWEEN BARRIERS
 - REPLACE BARRIER ON END WITH TYPE III BARRICADE TO ALLOW FOR EMERGENCY AND MAINTENANCE VEHICLE ACCESS



WATER STREET

NB TH-3

INSTALL TEMPORARY CURB RAMP
TO SIDEWALK

BRIDGE DECK 31' WIDE F-F
MAINTAIN ADA ACCESSIBLE
WALKWAYS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
MNMUTCD AND PROWAG

WATER STREET

MAINTAIN 18' CLEAR
BETWEEN CHANNELIZERS

INSTALL PEDESTRIAN CHANNELIZERS
TO CROSSWALK

DIVISION STREET

APPROXIMATE WIDTH TO BLOCK: 24'

E 4TH STREET

APPROXIMATE WIDTH TO BLOCK: 72'

BRIDGE SQUARE

WATER STREET

PHONE: 952.912.2600
10901 RED CIRCLE DRIVE,
SUITE 300
MINNETONKA, MN 55343
www.sehinc.com

FILE NO.
DATE:

BRIDGE SQUARE CLOSURE

e-mail comments summary received through 12:30 pm on 6/16/2020:

Asabikeshiinh Weaver

Leave the Water St bridge open

Bobbie Neff Lowthorp

I support keeping Water Street Bridge open. Businesses in that area are already trying to recover from the COVID 19 lockdown; we should not burden them further. Bicyclists & pedestrians have many other options - a townfull in fact. Fishing enthusiasts as well have other options albeit not as convenient. I vote against prioritizing convenience and preferences over the livelihoods of local business owners and their employees. Thank you, Bobbie Neff Lowthorp

Brenda Weise

2113 Ontario Lane

We have lived in Northfield for two years and are very happy with our community and the wonderful downtown. I don't think we should block the road next to the square. Safety is most important and access to local businesses is vital. Signage that fishing from the bridge could be dangerous sounds like a better option. The unique shops and restaurants are what welcomes us to our downtown. There are many areas along the river walk where benches could provide relaxing places to gather. Thank you for your time to read my email.

Bruce Anderson

501 St. Olaf Ave.

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I urge you to approve substantive pedestrian facility improvements to the 4th Street Bridge after your discussion at tonight's meeting of the motion to close the 4th Street Bridge and portions of Water Street adjacent to it from June 15th through July 31st (item 23 on tonight's agenda). The COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing recommendations have highlighted how unsafe crossing this bridge can be for pedestrians, and particularly for those in wheelchairs.

Will Schroeer provided this summary of recommendations. I'm not sure if this is the formal proposal you will be considering as part of tonight's discussion, but I think it is a solid recommendation:

- Create two walkways, one on each side, to the bridge. Each at least 6' wide: allows requested distancing without having to jump up on the high curb. Drive lanes 9' each.
- Add a ramp to the existing sidewalk on the north west end of the bridge. Could be a curb cut, or could be a temporary ramp until the curb cut is in place.
- Rubber bump in the drive lanes at the entrance to the bridge on either end to help vehicles slow as they enter the bridge.
- Paint the curb all the way across the bridge on both sides.
- Public Works to develop options for crosswalk on west end.
- Include in the option the possibility that the bridge and the approach on 4th St. may be closed for special events such as Rlverwalk Market, etc., on one or more Saturdays and/or Sundays if asked.

You are doing the community a tremendous service by examining how this important community space can be made more safe for everyone. I encourage you to move forward with meaningful permanent pedestrian safety improvements to this central portion of downtown.