

## City Council Agenda Item Choose an item. Meeting of August 28, 2023

Title:		Resolution authorizing easement acquisition proceedings for Hopkins Crossroad Trail Improvements project				
Report From:	Chris Long, P.E., Assistant City Engineer					
Submitted through:	Corrine Will Ma	Mike Funk, City Manager Corrine Heine, City Attorney Will Manchester, P.E., Public Works Director Phil Olson, P.E., City Engineer				
Action Requested: Form of Action: Votes needed:	⊠Motion ⊠Resolution ⊠4 votes	□Informational □Ordinance □5 votes	□Contract/Agre	•	□N/A	
Summary Statement						
The Hopkins Crossroad Trail Improvements project proposes a trail along the east side of Hopkins Crossroad from Cedar Lake Road to Oak Knoll Terrace North, including a trail along the south side of Hillside Lane West from Hopkins Crossroad to L.H. Tanglen Elementary School.						
Recommended Action	<u>on</u>					
Adopt the attached resolution for the Hopkins Crossroad Improvements Project, Project No. 22306.						
Strategic Profile Relatability  □ Financial Strength & Operational Excellence □ Sustainability & Natural Resources □ Infrastructure & Asset Management □ N/A			□Safe & Healthy Community □ Livable & Well-Planned Development □ Community Inclusiveness			
Statement: The Hopkins Crossroad Trial Improvements Project includes the construction of top priority trails, enhancing the trail network connectivity and infrastructure.						
Financial Consideration						
Is there a financial cor Financing sources:	re a financial consideration? □No ⊠Yes \$ cing sources: □Budgeted □Budget Modification □New Reve □Use of Reserves □Other [Enter]			e Source		

Statement: The Hopkins Crossroad Trail Improvements Project is budgeted in 2024 and 2025 of the 2022-2026 Capital Improvements Program. The project budget of \$6,970,000 includes both construction and acquisition costs.

## **Background**

The installation of a trail along Hopkins Crossroad has been a priority for the city for several years. The trail segment from Cedar Lake Road to Wayzata Boulevard is listed as the fifth highest-ranked trail out of 71 trails listed in the city's Trail Improvement Plan. The city council ordered the trail improvement project and authorized easement acquisition at a regular council meeting on <a href="Aug. 22, 2022">Aug. 22, 2022</a>. Also at that meeting, the CIP was amended to fund overhead burial costs and a cost table was included to show federal grant money received for the project. At the time, detailed sketches of the proposed easement acquisitions were not available. The city's outside counsel has requested a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the specific easements needed for the project.

The final budget will be presented to city council when final plans and specifications are complete later this fall.

### Project Schedule

The current project schedule is as follows:

August 2022 – Fall 2023 Prepare plans and specifications

June 2023 Obtain appraisals and initiate negotiations with affected

property owners - [completed, negotiations ongoing]

December 2023 Advertise for bids
Winter 2023/2024 Bid opening and award
Spring 2024 Begin construction
Fall 2024 Complete construction

The use of federal funds affects the city's timeline for acquiring easement rights. Under applicable federal regulations, the city is not allowed to advertise bids for the construction of a project until it has secured all property rights necessary for the construction of the project. Thus, the city must acquire all necessary easements by December 2023.

### Acquisition by eminent domain

There are a total of 18 parcels that are affected by the project. The city has obtained independent appraisals and made offers to the owners of all of those parcels. As of the date of this report, the city has reached agreement with nine property owners and is currently working on obtaining consents from the entities that hold mortgages on those properties affected.

In an effort to acquire all necessary easement rights by the project deadline, the city will need to use eminent domain. Minnesota law includes a process that is known as "quick-take," which is commonly used to ensure that project deadlines can be met, while continuing to work with property owners on the easements/property necessary to construct the project.

In non-quick-take proceedings, the acquiring authority does not obtain title and possession of easements until the end of the condemnation process, when court-appointed commissioners have determined the amount of just compensation to be paid to the property owner. That may often takes months and in some cases, years. The acquiring authority has no obligation to pay the property owner until the proceeding is finished and, if the award is not acceptable, the acquiring authority can abandon the project rather than acquire the land. If the acquiring authority does abandon the project, it must reimburse the owner's legal fees and costs, but it can avoid paying for the land.

In a quick-take proceeding, the acquiring authority is able to acquire the land by a date certain. To do so: (1) the authority must send a notice to the property owners by certified mail, at least 90 days before the date that the authority needs to obtain title; (2) it must give the owners an opportunity to appear at a court hearing and to object; (3) it must obtain the court's approval of the quick-take, after the hearing; and (4) it must pay to the owners, or deposit with the court, the approved appraised value of the damages caused by the taking. The owners still have the opportunity to contest the amount that the acquiring authority has paid, and if the court-appointed commissioners determine a higher amount, the acquiring authority must pay the difference, plus interest. In some cases, the city must also pay attorney fees. This process provides certainty to the acquiring authority and advance payment to the property owners. Once property is acquired by quick-take, the acquiring authority can no longer abandon the project; it is obligated to acquire and pay for the property, unless it can reach some other agreement acceptable to the property owner.

For the council's information, the parcel sketches for each of the 18 parcels are attached to this report.

#### Resolution No. 2023-057

Resolution authorizing eminent domain proceedings and delegating authority to establish just compensation for the Hopkins Crossroad Trail Improvement, Project No. 22306

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota as follows:

### Section 1. Background.

- 1.01. On Aug. 22, 2022, by Resolution No. 2022-073, the city council authorized Project No. 22306, Hopkins Crossroad Trail Improvements ("the Project") and ordered the improvements.
- 1.02. The Project requires the acquisition of temporary and permanent easements from properties adjacent to the Project. The affected properties, and a description of the easements to be acquired (the "Easements"), are listed on the attached Exhibit A.
- 1.03. The city council has been provided with parcel sketches for each of the Easements, in the staff report presented to the city council for consideration of this resolution.
- 1.04. The city has obtained independent appraisals of the estimated damages caused by the Easements.
- 1.05. The city staff and consultants have initiated negotiations with the owners of the affected properties.
- 1.06. In order to maintain the Project schedule, the city must obtain title and possession of all property rights needed for the Project prior to the advertisement of bids for the Project.
- 1.07. Minnesota Statutes, section 117.042 establishes a "quick-take" procedure, under which a condemning authority may obtain title and possession of property rights after court approval of the condemnation petition and 90 days after providing notice to the property owners, provided that the condemning authority must pay or deposit its approved appraised values of the property rights to be acquired prior to acquiring title.
- 1.08. Use of the "quick-take" procedure will ensure that the city will be able to maintain the Project schedule.

## Section 2. Council Action.

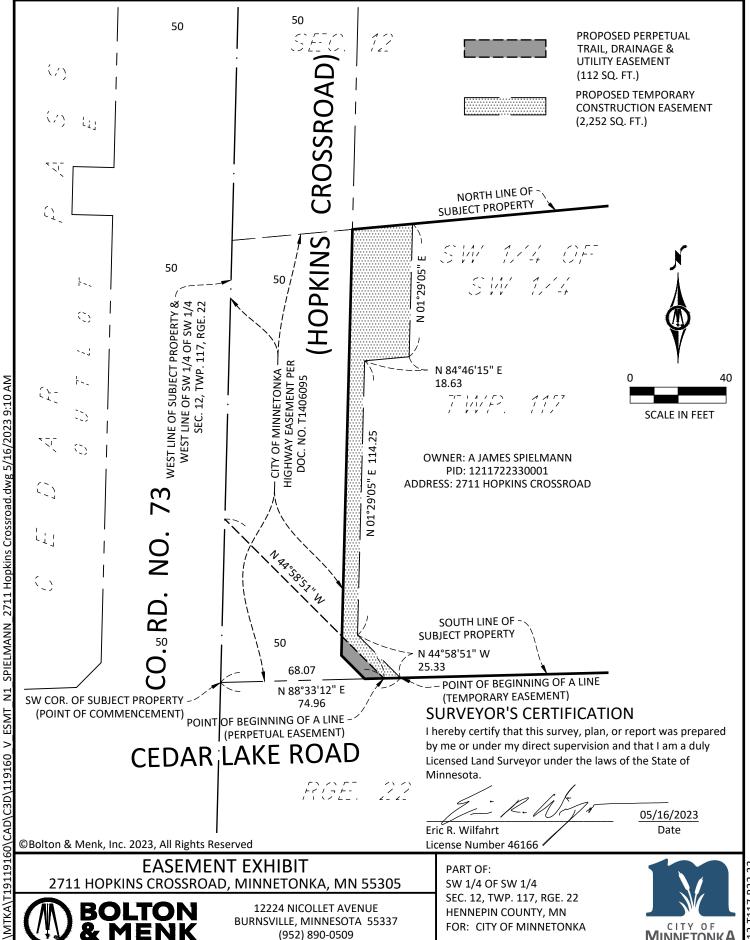
- 2.01. The council finds that the proposed Easements are necessary and serve a public purpose, as further described in the feasibility report for the Project.
- 2.02. The city attorney and city engineer are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to acquire the Easements in a timely manner that meets the Project schedule, including the use of eminent domain and use of the "quick-take" procedure under Minnesota Statutes, section 117.042.

2.03.	The city engineer is authorized to approve the appraisals for the affected properties and to establish the just compensation to be paid for the acquisition of the Easements.				
2.04.	The city manager or delegate has the authority to approve purchase agreements or settlement agreements related to the acquisition of the Easements, in any amount, provided that the amounts approved are within the Project budget.				
Adopted b	by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on Aug. 28, 2023.				
Brad Wier	rsum, Mayor				
Attest:					
•	osman, City Clerk				
Action or	n this resolution:				
Seconded Voted in fa Voted aga Abstained Absent: S	l:				
•	certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City f the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on Aug. 28, 2023.				
Becky Ko	osman, City Clerk				

# **EXHIBIT A**

# Affected Properties

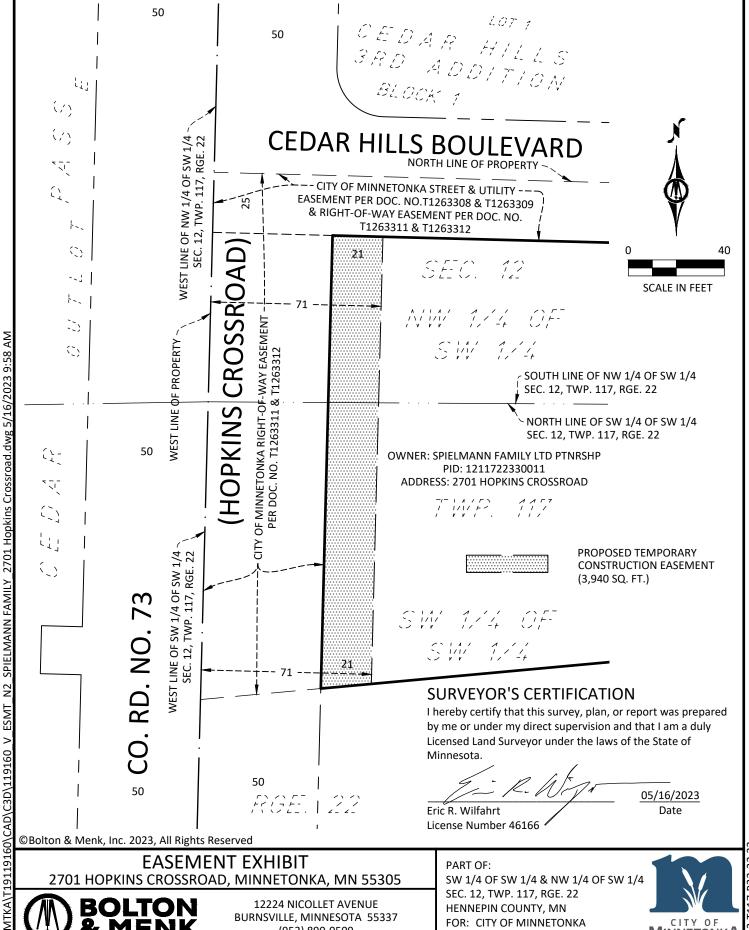
Parcel	Address	General description of easements
1	2711 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, drainage and utility easement
		Temporary construction easement
2	2701 Hopkins Crossroad	Temporary construction easement
3	2445 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, retaining wall, drainage and
		utility easement
		Temporary construction easement
4	2301 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, retaining wall, drainage and
		utility easement
		Permanent drainage and utility easement
		Temporary construction easement
5	11105 Hillside La W	Permanent trail, retaining wall, drainage and
		utility easement
	000011 1: 0	Temporary construction easement
6	2223 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, retaining wall, drainage and
		utility easement
7	2247 Hanking Crassrand	Temporary construction easement
7	2217 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, drainage and utility easement
8	2205 Hanking Crossroad	Temporary construction easement
0	2205 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, drainage and utility easement Temporary construction easement
9	2201 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, retaining wall, drainage and
3	2201 Hopkins 0103310au	utility easement
		Temporary construction easement
10	2121 Hopkins Crossroad	Temporary construction easement
11	2115 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent drainage and utility easement
	,	Temporary construction easement
12	2109 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent drainage and utility easement
	·	Temporary construction easement
13	2105 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, drainage and utility easement
		Temporary construction easement
14	2025 Hopkins Crossroad	Temporary construction easement
15	2021 Hopkins Crossroad	Temporary construction easement
16	2017 Hopkins Crossroad	Temporary construction easement
17	Omitted	
18	Omitted	
19	Omitted	
20	1727 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, drainage and utility easement
		Temporary construction easement
21	1721 Hopkins Crossroad	Permanent trail, drainage and utility easement
		Temporary construction easement



BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337

(952) 890-0509

FOR: CITY OF MINNETONKA



12224 NICOLLET AVENUE

BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337

(952) 890-0509

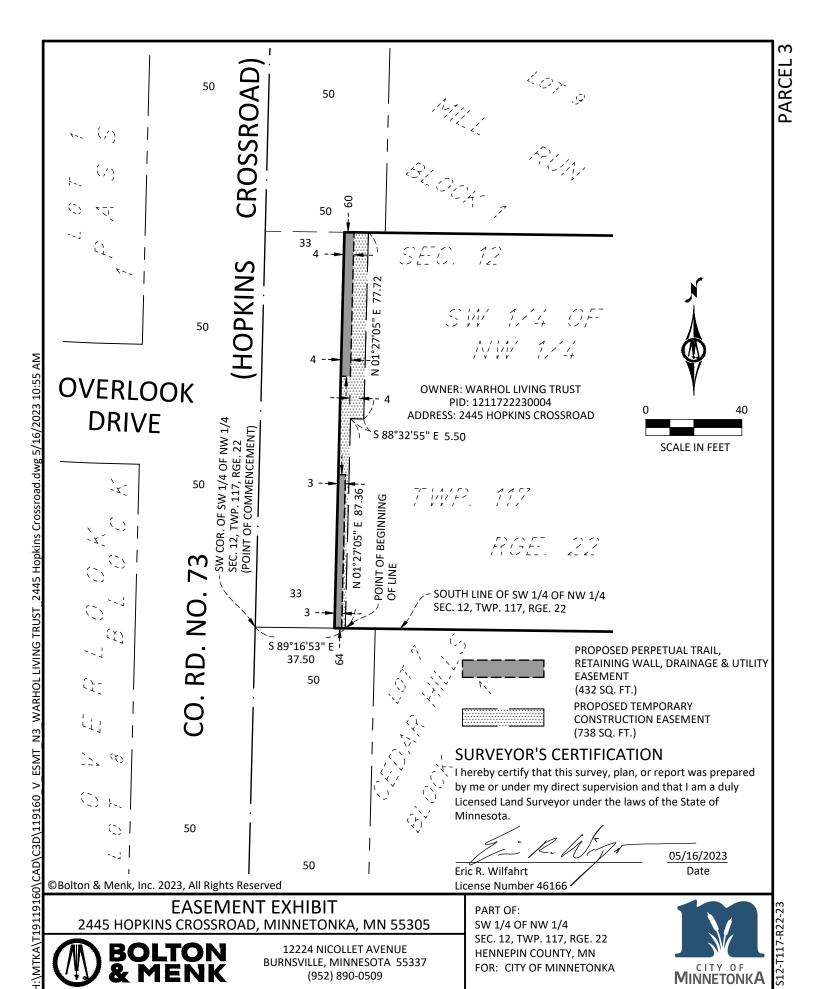
FIELD BOOK:

SEC. 12, TWP. 117, RGE. 22

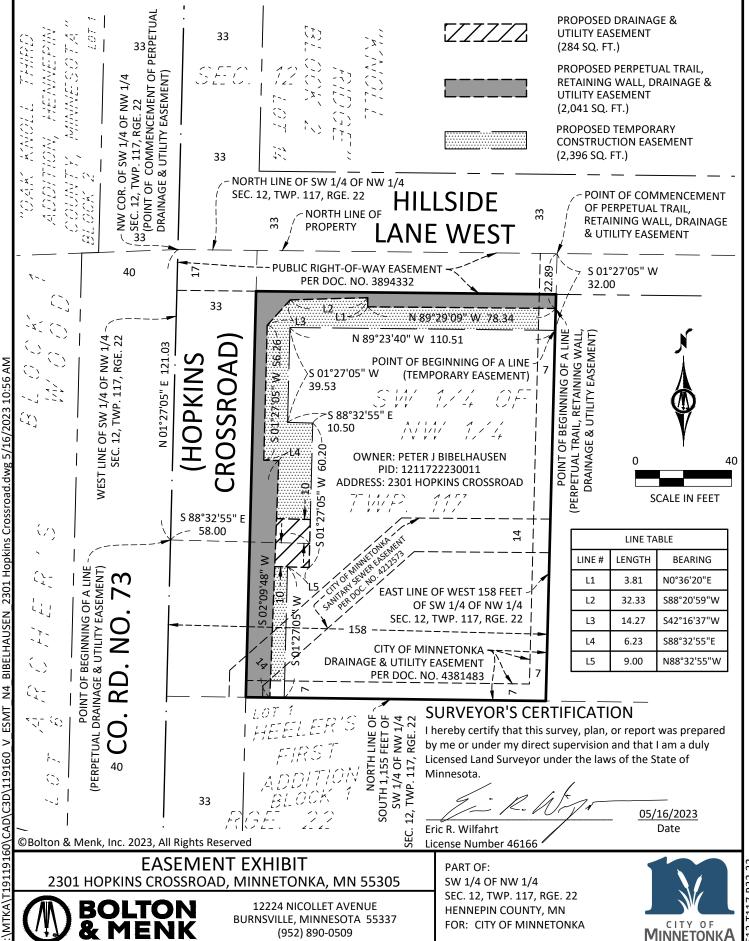
FOR: CITY OF MINNETONKA

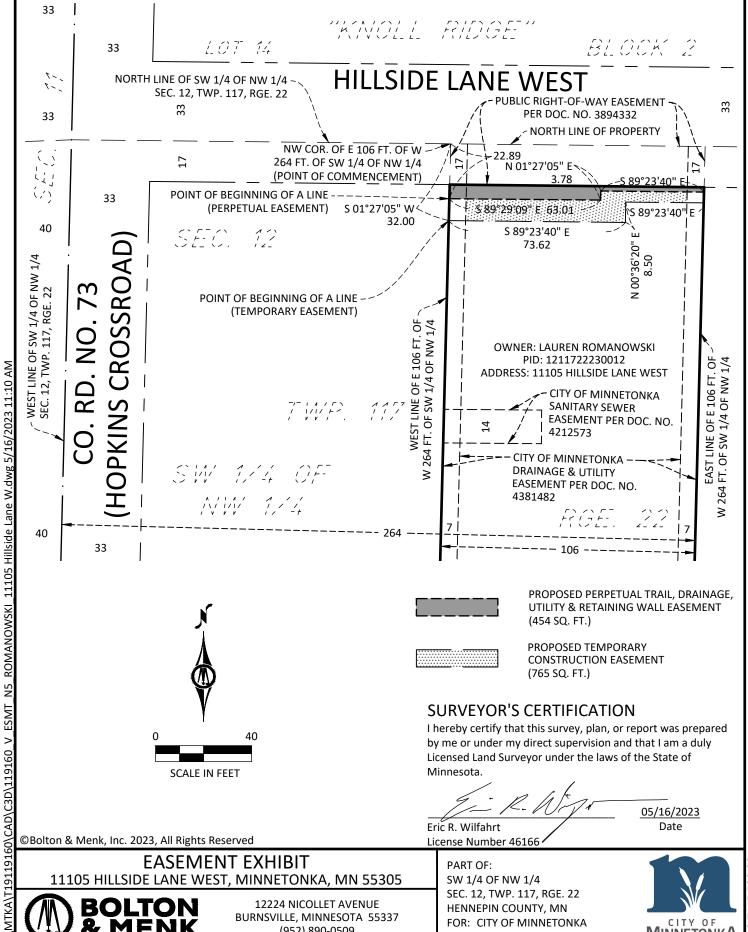
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN

DRAWN BY: MEA SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS



FIELD BOOK:



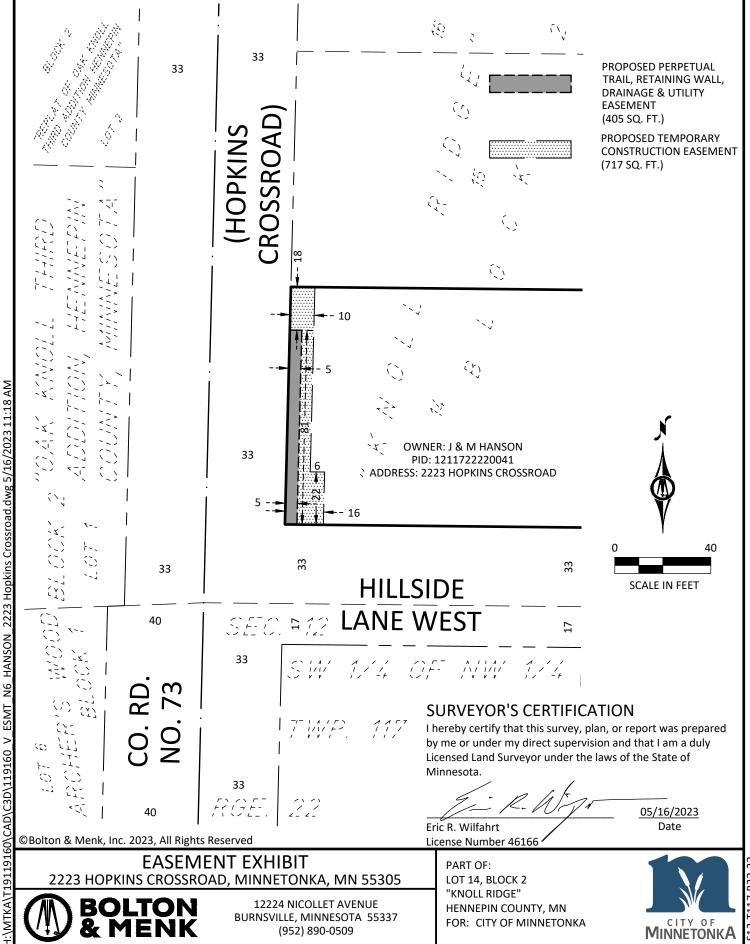


(952) 890-0509

FIELD BOOK:

FOR: CITY OF MINNETONKA

DRAWN BY: MEA SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS



(952) 890-0509

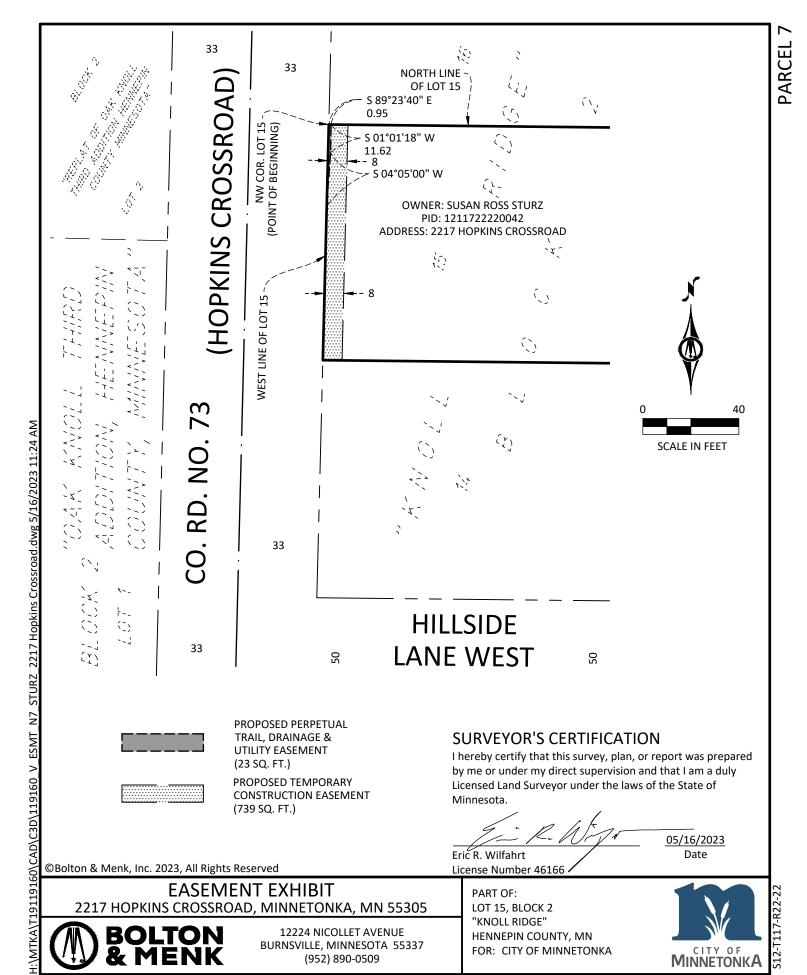
JOB NUMBER: T19.119160

BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337

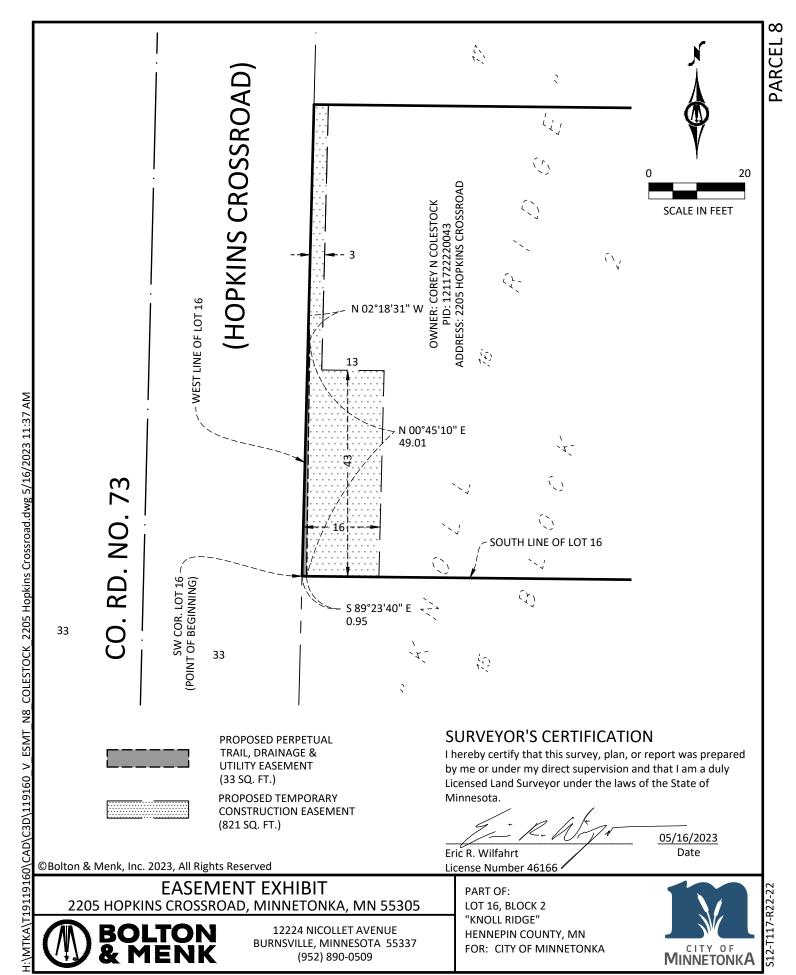
FIELD BOOK:

FOR: CITY OF MINNETONKA

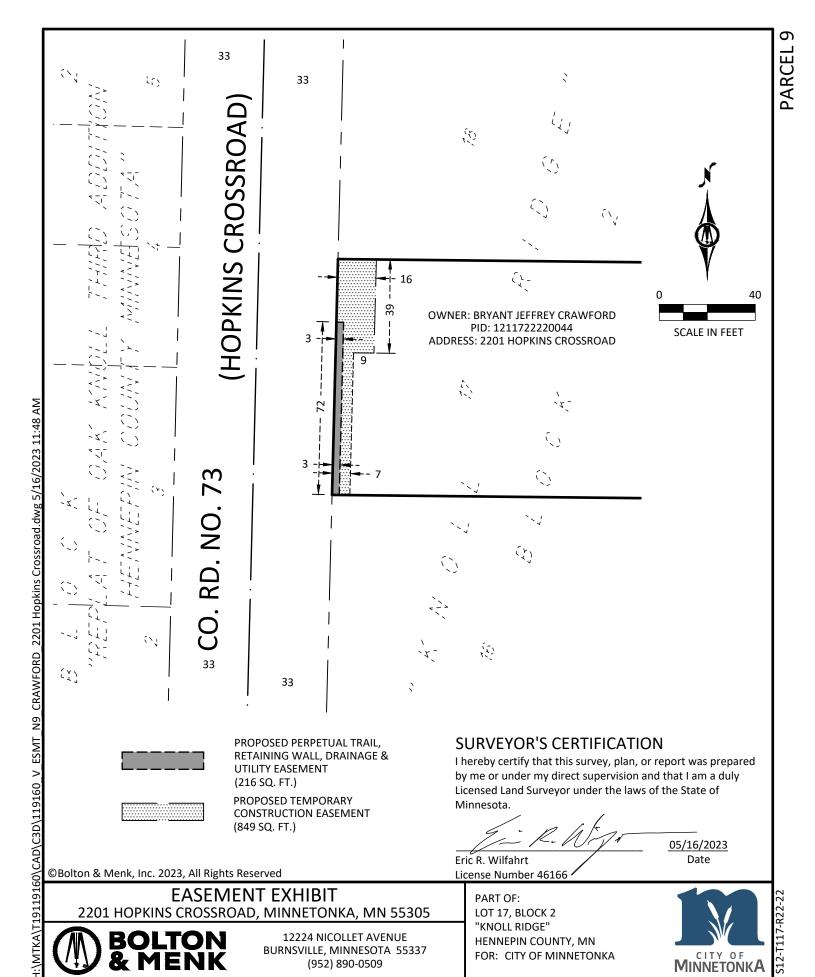
DRAWN BY: MEA **SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS** 



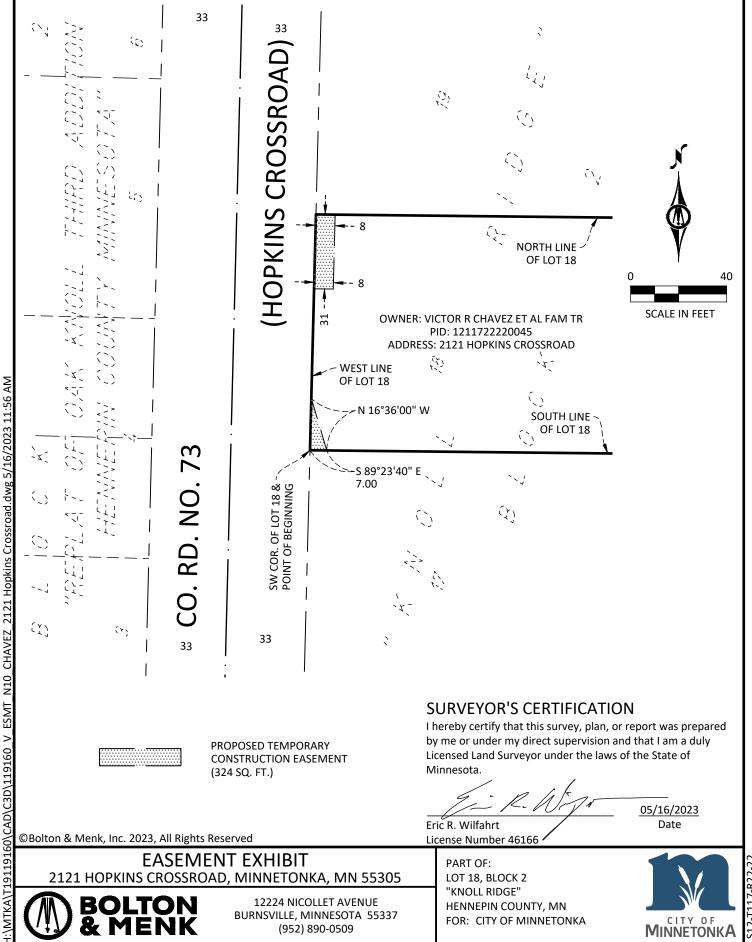
FIELD BOOK:



FIELD BOOK:



FIELD BOOK:



(952) 890-0509

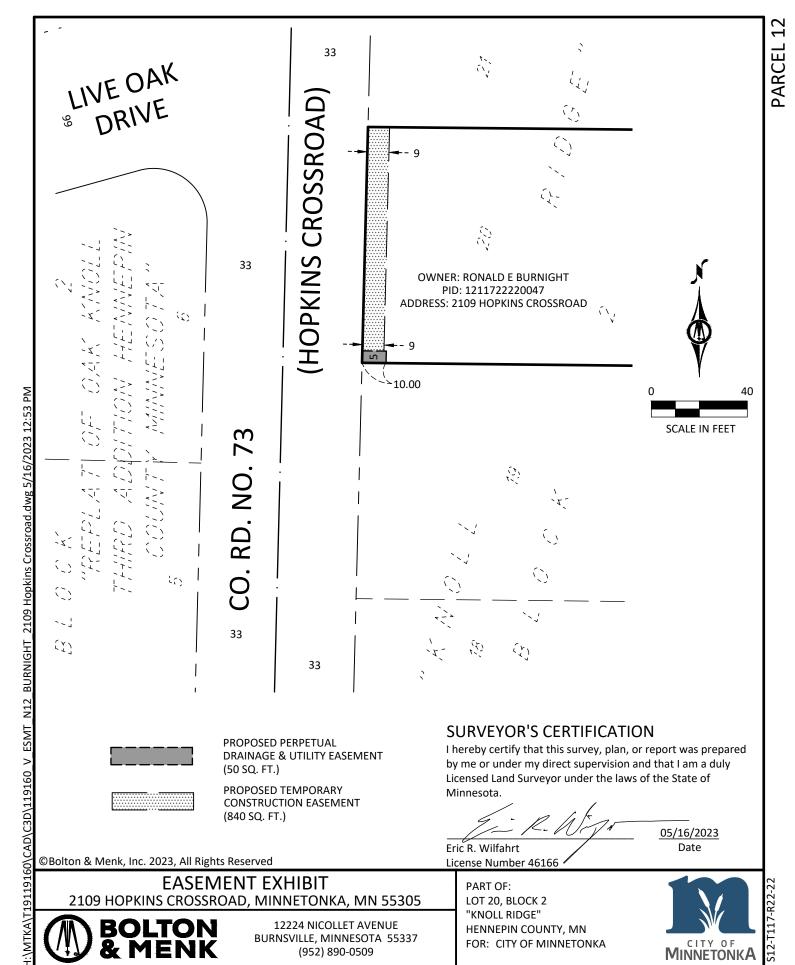
FIELD BOOK:

FOR: CITY OF MINNETONKA

DRAWN BY: MEA **SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS** 

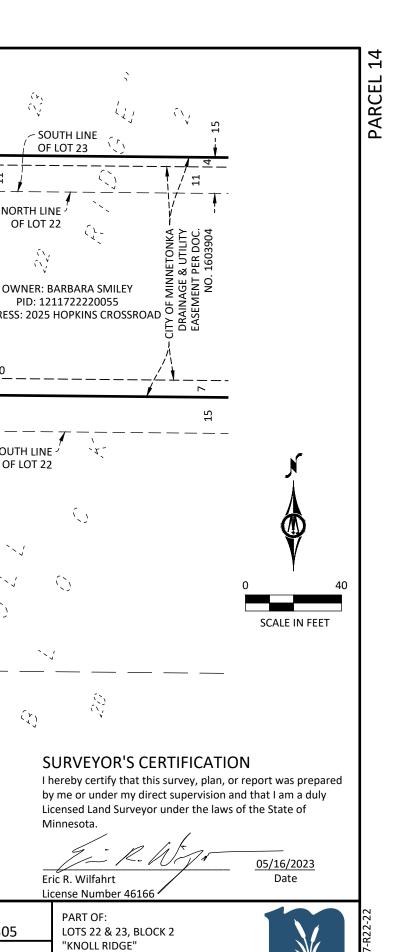
(952) 890-0509

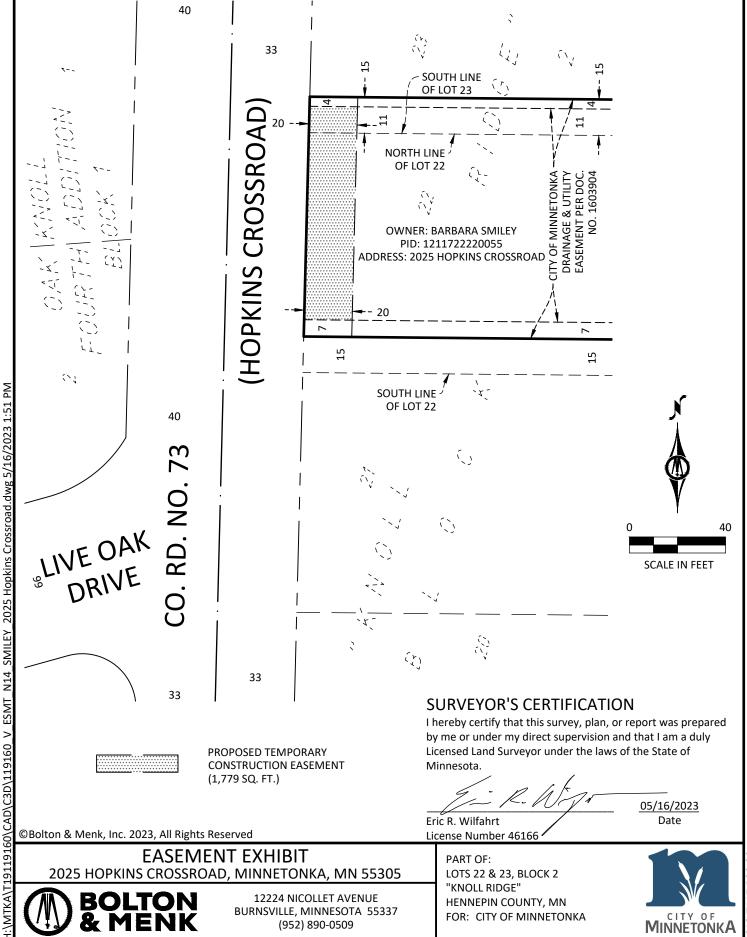
FIELD BOOK:



FIELD BOOK:

FIELD BOOK:





(952) 890-0509 JOB NUMBER: T19.119160

12224 NICOLLET AVENUE

BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337

FIELD BOOK:

HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN

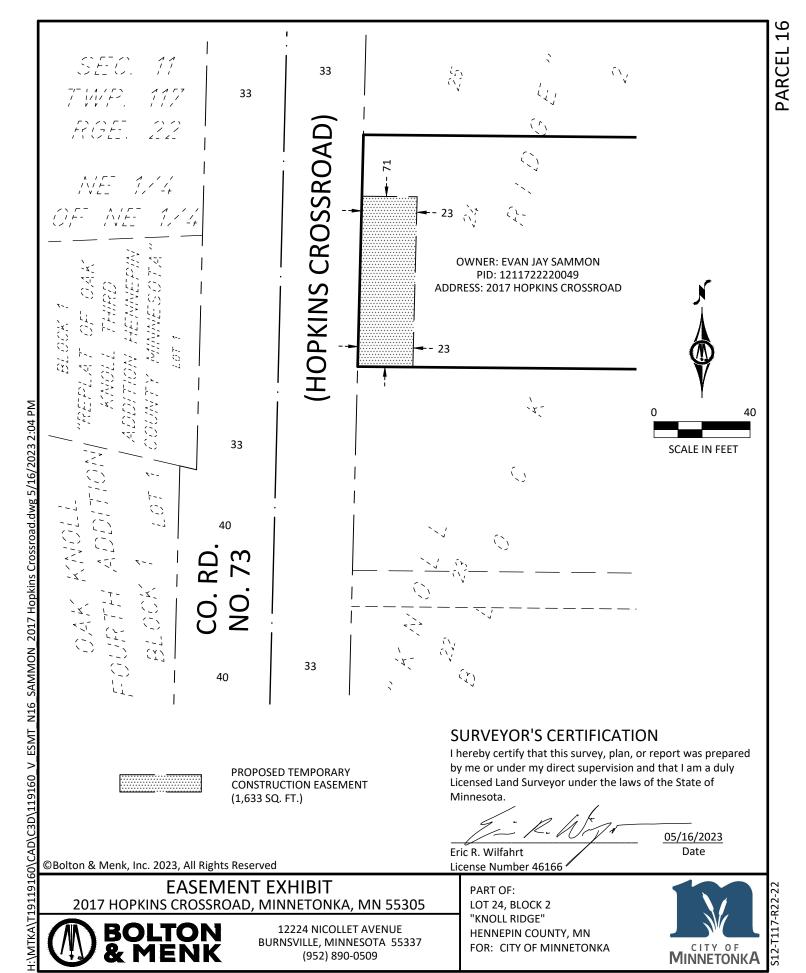
FOR: CITY OF MINNETONKA

DRAWN BY: MEA
SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS

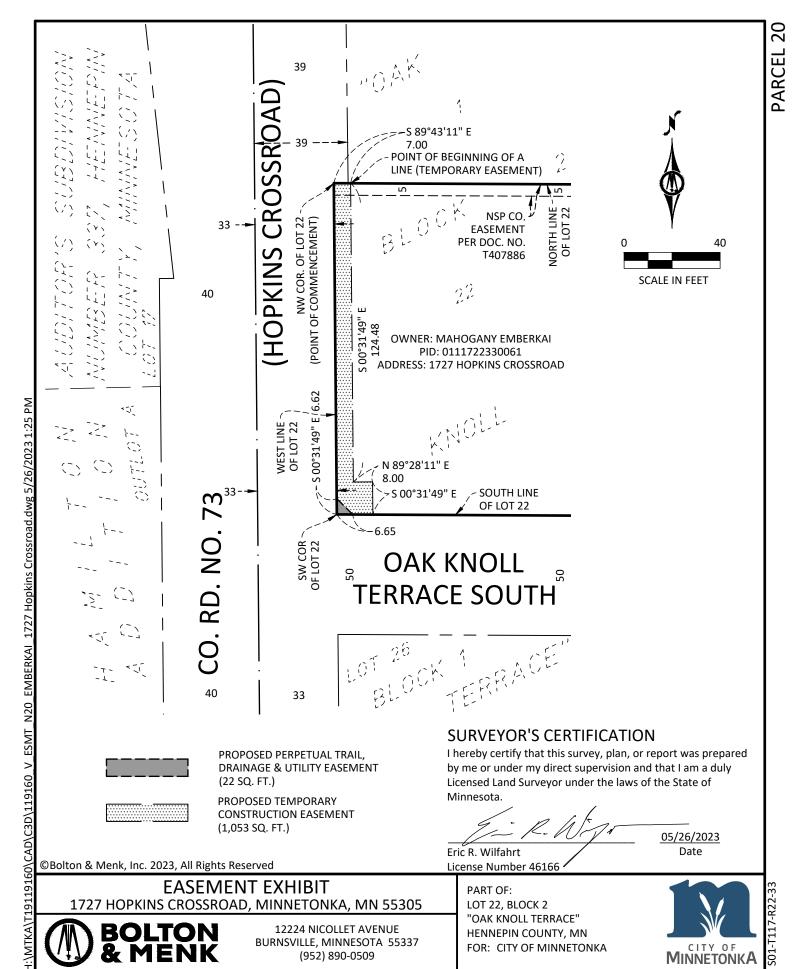
FIELD BOOK:

DRAWN BY: MEA
SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS

PARCEL 15

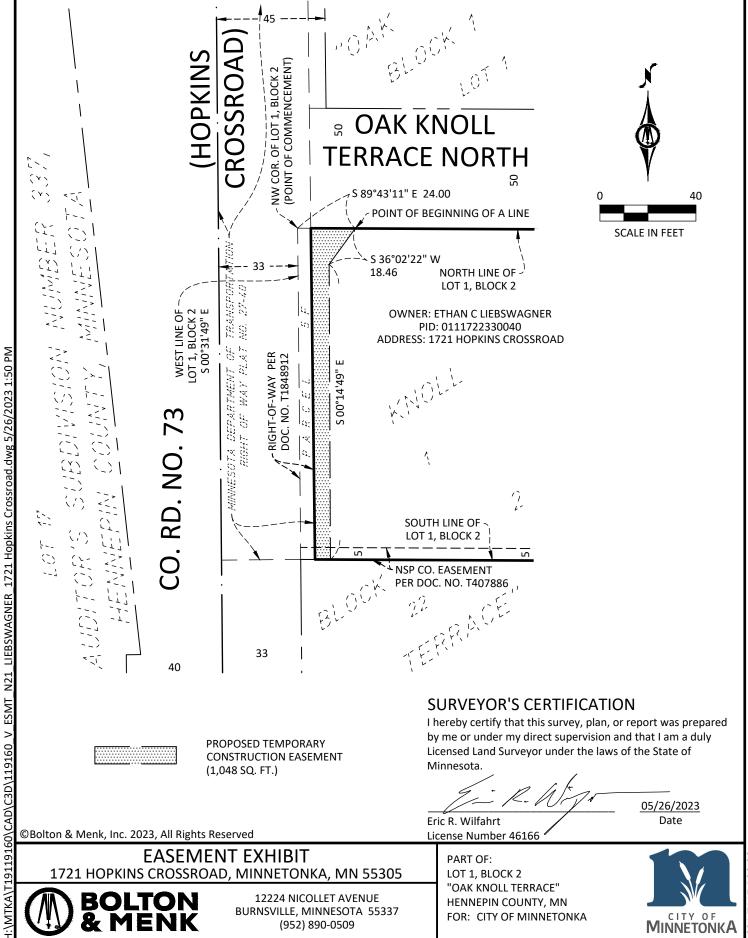


FIELD BOOK:



FIELD BOOK:

SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS



BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337

(952) 890-0509

FIELD BOOK:

HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN

FOR: CITY OF MINNETONKA

DRAWN BY: MEA **SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS** 

CITY OF MINNETONKA