Cascade Avenue Timeline

1999 – The Cascade Avenue reconstruction project was first included in the City’s 2000-2004 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

April 25, 2000 – At City Council Meeting, UWRF students LeRae Zahorski, Justin Munger and Annette Nelson attended to discuss pedestrian safety issues on Cascade Avenue during peak traffic hours.

January 23, 2007 – City Council approves Request for Proposals (RFP) for Cascade Avenue Concept Plan and authorizes the City Engineer to send RFP to engineering firms.

March 27, 2007 - The City Council retained Short-Elliott-Hendrickson (SEH) to develop a concept plan for Cascade Avenue from Spruce Street to Wasson Lane.

April 30, 2007 - Public Meeting #1 was held to identify a list of problems and concerns, develop goals and objectives, and suggest possible improvements and solutions. This meeting brought together many individuals and groups to provide initial input into concept plan development. More than 50 people attended this meeting.

September 24, 2007 - Public Meeting #2 was held to present various concepts along with some of the positives and negatives associated with the concepts. This meeting included an open house, presentation, group questions, and individual discussions. No specific concept or plan was presented or recommended. More than 30 people attended this meeting.

November 26, 2007 - Public Meeting #3 was held to discuss the preferred concept developed by the Technical Committee based on the previous public input. Background information developed during the process, including lists of problems and concerns, potential solutions, goals and objectives, and concept evaluations was available at the meeting. Those in attendance were given an opportunity to comment on the preferred concept. This meeting included an open house, presentation, group questions, and individual discussions. More than 80 people attended this meeting.

January 29, 2008 – Public Meeting #4 was a joint meeting of the City Council and Plan Commission held to consider approval of the Cascade Avenue Concept Plan. This meeting ended with adoption of Resolution 5071 by the City Council, which unanimously accepted the final report and recommendation of a preferred concept for Cascade Avenue.

February 18, 2008 – City initiates discussions with WisDOT regarding an agreement under which connecting Highway 29/35 could be moved from Cascade Avenue to Cemetery Road and which would provide payment from WisDOT towards the reconstruction of Cascade Avenue.

April 16, 2008 - Staff applied for a Transportation Enhancement Grant in April to cover 80% of the costs for preliminary engineering.
August 1, 2008 – City receives initial offer from WisDOT amounting to less than $1M towards the Cascade Avenue Project.

September 23, 2008 – WisDOT notified staff that we were unsuccessful in obtaining Transportation Enhancement Grant.

November 3, 2008 – City Council and Utility Commission were given a recap of the concept design and the next steps for the project and preliminary engineering.

November 11, 2008 - City Council authorizes staff to enter into an agreement with SEH for professional services necessary for preliminary engineering of Cascade Avenue. The preliminary engineering phase involves field surveying and preliminary engineering necessary to fully define any right-of-way needs and identify utility issues that should be resolved prior to construction and includes the following:

- Field Surveys and Related Work
- Drilling and Geotechnical Evaluation
- Utility Locations, Base Drawings, Related Work
- Design Development
- Preliminary Quantities
- Updated Cost Estimates
- Further Public Involvement
- ROW Platting and Acquisition

July 9, 2009 – Staff applies for $280,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Program funding for enhanced pedestrian crossings on Cascade Avenue from Spruce Street to Sixth Street.

September 29, 2009 – Public Meeting #5 specifically targeted the residential neighborhood east of 6th Street to discuss design questions directly affecting this neighborhood.

October 12, 2009 – Public Meeting #6 was a Public Information Meeting to present Preliminary Plans. Members of the Technical Advisory Committee were there to discuss the plan with individuals starting at 6:30. A general presentation followed at 7:00 PM followed by a question/answer period and more opportunities for individual discussions.

November 9, 2009 – Staff receives notice from WisDOT that $265,500 in Highway Safety Improvement Grants has been approved for enhanced pedestrian crossings on Cascade Avenue from Spruce Street to Sixth Street.

December 3, 2009 – City receives revised offer from WisDOT amounting to approximately $1.7M towards the Cascade Avenue Project.

February 2, 2010 – UW-River Falls holds Project Kick-off Meeting for its Campus Master Planning Project.

May 11, 2010 – Cascade Avenue Update presented at City Council Meeting.
September, 2010 – UW-River Falls Framework Mater Plan received.

February 11, 2011 – UW-River Falls Preliminary Master Plan received.

March 22, 2011 - City Council authorizes staff to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Cascade Avenue Reconstruction with UW-RF.

March 22, 2011 - City Council authorizes staff to enter into an agreement with SEH for professional services necessary for design and construction of Cascade Avenue from Spruce Street through Sixth Street.

March 22, 2011 - City Council authorizes staff to accept the Agreement with WisDOT to change Highway 29/35 from Cascade Avenue to Cemetery Road that provides 3.15M to the City that can be used for Cascade Avenue Reconstruction.

April 6, 2011 – UW-River Falls Final Preferred Master Plan received.

July 27, 2011 - Cascade Avenue Design Open House where staff and consultants will available to discuss the plans, answer questions, and more opportunities for individual discussions.

August 9, 2011 – City Council adopts a resolution indicating its intent to levy special assessments upon property benefited by the improvements made to Cascade Avenue Reconstruction Project.

September 13, 2011 – City Council adopts a relocation order allowing the City to move forward with acquiring a small parcel of land needed for sidewalk from the Wesley Foundation (Journey House).

October 11, 2011 – City Council authorizes the City Engineer to enter into a contract with (SEH) for professional services for a Highway Safety Improvement Project (HSIP) on Cascade Avenue that will add enhanced pedestrian crossing features to the project.

October 31, 2011 - Letters were mailed to property owners notifying them of the proposed assessments, informing them of the Public Hearing, and inviting them to an informal meeting to get more information on their proposed assessments.

November 14, 2011 - Informal public informational providing information on proposed assessments was held in the Training Room of City Hall.

December 13, 2011 – City Council holds Public Hearing and adopts Resolution Authorizing Special Assessments against Benefitted Property.

December 13, 2011 - City Council authorizes the purchase the right-of-way necessary for the Cascade Avenue Reconstruction Project from Wesley Foundation (Journey House).