

CSAH 101 – Open House #1 Summary - November, 2006

Hennepin County initiated the public input process for the proposed reconstruction of Highway 101 (Bushaway Road) between Minnetonka Blvd and Wayzata Blvd with two public open houses. Wayzata residents were invited to an open house on November 6th at Wayzata City Hall. Minnetonka and Woodland residents were invited to an open house at the Minnetonka Civic Center. Invitees included all residents with frontage on Bushaway Road as well as residents living near Highway 101. In all approximately 400 properties were notified of the meeting. It is the County's intent to include all residents who have an interest in the project so if you are aware of anyone who may want to be included in future meetings or newsletters, have them contact us and we'll ensure they are included in the process.

Both open houses included the same format with introductions of project leaders from Hennepin County, Wayzata, Woodland and Minnetonka as well as the engineering design consultant URS Corporation. The focus of the meetings was to solicit comments from residents relative to the desired outcomes of the project in general as well as indicating specific property issues such as landscaping, drainage or driveway concerns. The meetings included a brief presentation outlining project background and history, the basic needs driving the project, the public involvement process, recent design activities and the anticipated project schedule. The presentation was followed by question and answer session. Large scale aerial photos and topographical maps were displayed at the open houses and residents were encouraged to write any specific questions or concerns regarding their properties directly onto the maps. In addition comment forms were distributed and many residents have subsequently provided comments via the forms.

We are maintaining a file of all project public input from comment forms, map annotations and verbal questions received at meetings. This input will be used during the design process and future public meetings and discussions with individual residents as the project proceeds. The following is a synopsis of some of the main comments, questions and answers (as applicable) that were discussed at the meetings or received by comment forms:

Many residents stressed the importance of keeping the beautiful aesthetic of the corridor. Improvements should minimize tree loss and utilize attractive design elements – many residents felt the Gray's Bay Bridge design aesthetic would be appropriate for the bridge and retaining walls included with the project.

Many residents stressed that tree clearing should be minimized throughout the corridor and that arborists should be consulted as necessary to promote tree restoration.

Many residents supported construction of a separate trail for bicyclists and pedestrians along the roadway corridor which is included in the County's scope. The trail is planned for the east side of the roadway. Several west side residents requested that the County provide safe crossing points to utilize the trail.

Many residents stressed the importance of keeping local traffic and emergency traffic moving during construction as closure of this segment of CSAH 101 involves lengthy detours.

A number of residents along LaSalle Street requested that the County consider closing its access to CSAH 101 to reduce traffic on their street.

Many residents stressed desire to slow traffic down. Many residents expressed concern about safety and speed issues between the curves at Grays Bay Road and Breezy Pointe Road.

Q: Will the speed limit be changed on CSAH 101?

Response: Speed limits will not be changed as a result of the project. The design speed for curves will be 35MPH.

Q: Will large trucks be banned from the roadway?

Answer: Truck traffic will not be banned from the roadway as state statutes require truck access.

Q: Will noise barriers be included with the project?

Response: Noise barriers are not included on projects of this type due to the frequency of driveway access openings.

Q: Will traffic projections be revised now that the I-494 work is complete?

Answer: The traffic projections utilize long range models which should not be significantly affected by short term spike in traffic. Traffic counts are done on a regular basis and will be done again on 101 during the design process.

Q: How will property Acquisition Process Work?

A: Once the project plans have been finalized, any private property acquisition necessary for the project will be appraised by the County. The County will initiate negotiations with property owners for temporary and permanent easements. Valuation for items such as landscaping, fencing, lighting etc. will be included with the negotiations. The County may implement eminent domain proceedings if a suitable agreement is not reached within the budgeted time period necessary to begin construction.

Q: Will the project affect property taxes?

Answer: Property taxes will not be directly affected by the project (up or down) and no special assessments are proposed.