

Memo

To: Marc Nevinski, City of Golden Valley

From: Robert Byers & Emily Kettell, Hennepin County Public Works – Transportation Planning

Date: September 13, 2019

Re: Glenwood Avenue 2020 Resurfacing and Restriping

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Golden Valley City Council in regards to an upcoming county 2020 mill and overlay project along Glenwood Avenue (County Road 40) from Highway 100 in Golden Valley to Thomas Avenue in Minneapolis.

As part of the preparation for the 2020 mill and overlay project, city and county staff have conducted extensive outreach, including the formation of a study group to review options for the future of the entire Glenwood Avenue corridor.

This memorandum details the proposed changes to occur in conjunction with the 2020 mill and overlay as well as a timeline for recommended future improvements.

Outreach and communications

County and city staff have made it a priority to understand residents' and other stakeholders' needs and concerns for the Glenwood Avenue corridor. Between November 2018 and August 2019, the project team has completed the following:

- Announcing the project in a mailing to more than 800 residents that included a project information sheet, open house invitation, and comment form
- Providing project updates and promoting a community-wide open house, through the Golden Valley newsletter and on a project-specific webpage: www.hennepin.us/glenwoodgoldenvalley

- Hosting an open house at Golden Valley City Hall to provide an overview of the project and gather initial input
- Meeting with key stakeholders, including:
 - Breck School to discuss general parking and traffic control at Ottawa and Glenwood avenues
 - Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board staff to discuss the Theodore Wirth intersection, trail alignments and parking along Glenwood Avenue
 - Metro Transit staff to discuss bus stop locations and pedestrian connections
- Coordinating a study group comprised of city and county staff, Breck School staff and interested residents
- Hosting a second open house at Brookview to share community feedback and proposed recommendations

Proposed recommendations

The attached community feedback document summarizes the key concerns that county staff have heard at various outreach events over the past year. After completing studies (e.g. parking studies and pedestrian crossing counts) and considering these concerns, Hennepin County recommends the following actions:

Immediate

In coordination with the 2020 mill and overlay:

- Promote traffic calming by reducing lane widths from 13 feet to 11 feet.
- Convert existing shoulder space to dedicated buffered bike lanes to provide a consistent connection along the entire Glenwood corridor and provide a buffer between people walking on the sidewalk and people driving.
- Remove parking along the corridor due to low use.
- Re-establish landscaping (boulevard space) to improve the pedestrian environment by providing a buffer between the sidewalk and roadway between Ottawa and Natchez avenues and re-establish landscaping near Theodore Wirth Park.
- Continue to work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to address parking needs at Theodore Wirth Beach.
- Evaluate crossing locations along Meadow Lane, Natchez Avenue and Ottawa Avenue and their potential integration with the 2020 repaving project.
 - Additionally, evaluate connections to potential future crossing locations to ensure crossings are ADA accessible and accommodate multimodal movements. Design details will need to be evaluated and neighborhood engagement will need to take place before moving forward.

Near future

Over the course of the next few years:

- Evaluate sidewalk improvements, particularly between Westwood Drive and Ardmore Drive.
 - The City and County will need to coordinate on this section of sidewalk to determine the feasibility of improving the sidewalk in the near or mid-term. Improvements are likely to include the construction of a large retaining wall on pilings to support a wider sidewalk.
- Conduct pedestrian crossing analyses at additional locations across Glenwood Avenue.

- Evaluate feasibility of a planted median at Highway 100 in place of existing painted median.
 - The median would need to be compliant with Hennepin County's landscaping guidelines, which will be finalized later this year.
- Pilot temporary bike lane improvements along curves.
 - Pending further discussion, county staff are interested in testing "mumble strips," which help notify drivers they are veering off into the bike lane, along curved portions of the roadway, particularly near Theodore Wirth Park.
- Evaluate safety improvements to the intersection of Glenwood Avenue and Theodore Wirth Parkway.
 - County staff have begun discussions with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in regards to this intersection.
 - Key areas of improvement may include crossings, trail locations, and overall intersection geometry.

Long term

Additional ideas require more time for study, discussion, coordination, design and construction, and would have to be considered as part of a more extensive reconstruction, including:

- Make improvements for the Highway 100 bridge in coordination with MnDOT.
 - Improvements may include improved ADA accessibility, sidewalks and dedicated bike space.
- Add consistent sidewalk, boulevard space and other landscaping elements throughout the corridor.
- Evaluate long-term improvements to better align Ottawa Avenue.
- Add pedestrian scale lighting.
- Enhance bike lanes.

Next steps

This memo was presented at a Golden Valley council-manager meeting on September 10th and will be shared at a full city council meeting on September 17th. The discussion at the September 10th meeting focused on implementation of additional improvements beyond repaving and restriping, including pilot studies, crosswalk locations, and collaboration with outside agencies at Highway 100 and Theodore Wirth Parkway. City and county staff will be meeting to discuss these potential improvements in more detail in fall 2019.

Hennepin County staff are recommending to move forward with the proposed immediate improvements in 2020 as detailed in this memo.

- County staff will seek support for the recommendations outlined in this memo, which will also include a resolution for no parking.
- If approved, Hennepin County will take the next steps to communicate with stakeholders and finalize designs.
- Timing of implementation will be coordinated with county and city staff as part of the county's 2020 mill and overlay program.
- Staff will continue to work through those items listed as 'near future' and 'long-term' in this memo.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Community feedback board

Community feedback

Walking and rolling



- Repair sidewalks and add boulevard space between the sidewalk and roadway
- Ensure that sidewalks are comfortable for people of all ages and abilities.
- Provide marked crosswalks at designated locations across Glenwood Avenue.
- Improve drainage and clear sidewalks better in the winter.
- Redesign the Glenwood and Theodore Wirth Parkway intersection to improve visibility for people walking and biking.

Biking



- Provide a dedicated space for people biking that is consistent with the segments on either end of this project corridor.
- Create a connection to Theodore Wirth Park that is comfortable for a variety of users (families, routine users, etc).
- Address the bike gap on Highway 100 and improve sidewalk access due to curb issues and pole/ signage obstructions.

Driving



- Implement traffic calming - people speed through the corridor, especially when exiting Highway 100.
- Improve issues with truck traffic traveling through the corridor.
- Remove parking to create a more multi-modal and accessible street.

Also noted:

- Parking (where allowed) should be better signed.
- Some concern about the loss of parking, particularly around Ottawa.

Miscellaneous



- Add lighting along Glenwood Avenue.
- Preserve neighborhood feel through signage and landscaping.
- Provide more landscaping to the corridor; in particular, consider using the median at Highway 100 for landscaping.
- Improve bus stop facilities.