



Public Engagement Plan
202nd St. W. Reconstruction (CP 50-23)
Physical Development - Transportation

5/2/2017



1. Introduction

Public engagement is a critical aspect in ensuring that all Dakota County government services are performed efficiently, effectively and in a responsive manner. Dakota County strives to ensure that the proper level of public engagement is realized in all projects. To identify this proper level of engagement, the County utilizes a public engagement process tool that is standardized across the organization and results in consistent approaches and outcomes. If a project scores a 1-3 a public engagement plan must be created. The levels of engagement and what each entails in terms of description and specific examples can be seen in the table below.

Level	Description	Examples
Level 1 – Inform and Listen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain, educate or gather information. • Use when priorities and decisions are still being shaped. • Can explain the issue, while gathering information to understand and perspectives and ideas of citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments. • Open houses. • A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments.
Level 2 – Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally involves two-way information exchange in which the public discusses a policy, issue, or research priority. • Discussion among and with different stakeholders is encouraged. • Can deepen knowledge by exploring and responding to ideas and concerns described by individual participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments. • Open houses. • A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments.
Level 3 – Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different perspectives are shared and parties can influence each other and develop consensus. • Allows the organization and participants to explore and work through issues together, understand each other's perspectives and values, and consistently address concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments. • Open houses. • A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments.

1. Introduction (cont.)

Project Description:

CP 50-23 (202nd Street West) includes the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway (CSAH 50) from a 2 lane rural roadway to a 2 lane divided urban roadway from Holyoke Avenue to CSAH 23 (Cedar Avenue) in the City of Lakeville. The project includes a traffic control evaluation at the intersection of CSAH 50 and 23 and the intersection of CSAH 50 and Holyoke Avenue. A pedestrian underpass is planned west of Highview Avenue to connect the Parks with the north side of CSAH 50.

The purpose of the project is to improve a significantly deteriorated roadway, improve safety and traffic operations on CSAH 50 (202nd Street West) between Holyoke Avenue and CSAH 23 (Cedar Avenue), and improve safety and connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists along CSAH 50. CSAH 50 is currently an undivided roadway with four foot shoulders and minimal turn lanes.

Engagement Level:

2 - Discuss

Based on the above engagement level score, this plan will utilize certain methods and tools to reach stakeholders based on the table from the previous page.



2. Public Engagement Objectives and Approaches

The purpose of this Public Engagement Plan is to serve as a means of process planning and engagement designing in order to achieve a desired level of public engagement. An important aspect in achieving this is identifying the key objectives and potential outcomes and then deciding which approaches are best suited to achieving those outcomes. The following lists the key objectives and approaches for this Public Engagement Plan.

Key Public Engagement Objectives:

Share the project's purpose and need with stakeholders.

Share the project's design with stakeholders from preliminary to final design

Provide opportunities for stakeholders to offer input on project design elements

Explain need for right of way acquisitions and the acquisition process

Provide updates on the project, project schedule and construction staging

Public Engagement Approaches:

Open houses
Host open houses for design and construction.

One-on-one meetings with property owners
Hold individual meetings with stakeholders who may have specific questions or are directly impacted by the project (typically those with right of way implications).

Newsletters/ Project Updates
Send periodic newsletters with project details, timelines and invites to open houses.

Project Website
Post and continually update the County website for the project with project details, timelines and meeting information.

Neighborhood Meetings
Host meetings with neighborhoods along the corridor.

3. Major Groups to Engage and Methods

A holistic public engagement process requires a diverse group represented by various populations that are involved from start to finish. A process that involves diverse stakeholders assists in achieving a project that is reflective of the County’s diverse interests and ever-changing population. However, in order to effectively reach and involve various stakeholders different types of specific engagement methods need to be used as their effectiveness can vary from one group to another. Major groups to engage and methods of engagement most likely to be successful are listed in the following table.

Groups to Engage	Scientific Survey	Workshops	Focus Group	Open House	PMT Meetings	One-on-one
City of Lakeville		X		X	X	
Dakota County Staff		X		X	X	
Nearby and Adjacent Residents		X		X		X
Private utility owners			X	X		
MnDOT State Aid		X			X	
Environmental Agencies				X	X	
Quigley-Sime/ Aronson Park Users				X		
ISD 194				X		X

A PMT has been assembled to discuss specific issues, design options and planning. The PMT will present information to residents through newsletters, project updates, webpage updates and email correspondence. Newsletters will be used to provide project updates and typically to invite residents to an upcoming project open house.

The PMT anticipates one-on-one meetings with residents directly impacted by right of way acquisition or drainage implications to go over the details and address any comments/ concerns.

Utility meetings (focus group) will be held involving all utility companies with facilities along the corridor so they are prepared if lines need to be relocated during construction.

Workshops (neighborhood meetings) can be used to address residents' concerns directly related to the project impacts on their neighborhood. As part of the reconstruction of CSAH 50, access to neighborhoods will be modified temporarily as part of the construction project and permanent changes.

4. Key Questions to Ask

Once the methods of engagement have been identified the questions that need to be asked then need to be created. Questions that are asked in the public engagement process must address the major concerns and issues of the proposed project. Questions that do not necessarily lead discussions towards the end goals of learning about the major issues can result in a more disjointed discussion that lacks effectiveness which is why it is important that questions are well thought out and refined. Questions needs to be asked in such ways where they encourage participation and dialogue amongst those people asked to respond. They should also be asked in a way to solicit responses from a variety of groups rather than only a limited amount. Similar to the methods of engagement, certain types of questions can be more effective than others in garnering a response from certain groups of individuals.

Project Issues to Address with Questions:

Right of way implications to impacted stakeholders

Purpose for the reconstruction and design elements of CSAH 50

Purpose for evaluating traffic control at the intersections of CSAH 50 and Holyoke and CSAH 50 and 23 (Cedar Avenue)

Construction Staging and residential & business access impacts

Public Engagement Questions:

How can the project minimize impacts to area residents while still meeting objectives of the project?

How will access to the Quigley-Sime and Aronson Parks be affected during construction?

What issues need to be addressed to improve safety?

What type of traffic control is being proposed at the intersections of CSAH 50 and Holyoke and CSAH 50 and 23 (Cedar Avenue) and why?

What are the long term impacts to my neighborhood with the proposed future plan for the area and the recent residential development?

Will other traffic control devices be installed at the existing intersections?

5. Action Plan by Project Phases

Phase I	Design/ Right of Way	2017-2018
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We convey project purpose/need and design elements in a way the public understands. Property owners that will be approached by the County for the acquisition of easements understand why and what the process will be. The public generally understands how construction of the project will be staged and how traffic is anticipated to be impacted.

Phase II	Construction	2019
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Stakeholders are kept up to date on construction activities and timelines. Major changes to the construction schedule are conveyed to the public in a timely fashion.

Phase III

6. Available Resources and Budget

County staff time to support project development work, including public engagement, has been budgeted in the CIP under "CIP Reimbursement to Operations". City of Lakeville staff time to support project development work, including public engagement, has been budgeted in the Transportation CIP for the project.

Briefly discuss any increased project costs, project delays and additional staff/consultant resources required by this public engagement plan, if any.

None.