



Public Engagement Plan
CSAH 70 EXPANSION PROJECT (CP 70-23)
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT - TRANSPORTATION

4/4/2018



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:

This project includes the expansion of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 70 from a 2-lane to a 4-lane divided highway from Kensington Boulevard/ Kenrick Avenue to Cedar Avenue in the City of Lakeville. The project includes the addition of turn lanes at major intersections and drainage improvements.

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 purpose and need as part of building public support for project.

Discuss and gather input on project needs, schedule and construction staging.

Merge feedback, particularly on access items, with design needs on the project.

Keep stakeholders updated throughout project construction.

Public Engagement Approaches:

Open houses

Face-to-face interviews

Surveys and questionnaires

Audience participation

Project website

Workshops and focus groups

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	Face to face interviews	PMT Meetings
City and County staff		X	X	X		X
Lakeville South HS/Dist 194		X		X	X	
Area businesses		X	X	X	X	
Area residents		X	X	X	X	
Downtown Lakeville		X		X		
Lakeville Hockey Association				X	X	
Airlake Industrial Park		X	X	X	X	
FedEx				X	X	
Launch Park				X	X	
Metro Airport Commission				X	X	
Environmental agencies			X		X	
Private utility owners		X	X		X	

A PMT will be assembled to discuss specific issues, design options and planning. This team currently includes Dakota County Project Managers, Dakota County Engineers, City Engineers, Watershed Representatives and Water Resource Engineers. Workshops will likely be utilized to coordinate access with the area businesses. Representatives for private utility groups and environmental agencies will be brought into the discussions through the use of focus group meetings or workshops as the project develops. Newsletters will go out periodically to nearby and adjacent residents and business owners. This newsletter will include key project information and will act as an invite to any open houses. Directions to our website will spelled out in the newsletter where anyone can go to find further details on the project. For those directly impacted by ROW acquisition or drainage, one-on-one meetings or focus groups may be pursued to go over the details.

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 need 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:

Property impacts to adjacent stakeholders

Access modifications along the corridor

Construction staging and business/resident access

Unknown issues

Public Engagement Questions:

How can the project design most effectively accomplish the goals of the project while minimizing impacts to area residents and businesses?

How can stakeholder feedback regarding access and design be merged with the design of the project, given the volumes and use of the highway?

How can construction of the project be staged to allow for access and minimize disruption to area residents and businesses?

What other issues should project staff be aware of?

5. Action Plan by Project Phases

Phase I	Design/Right of Way 	2018-2020
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We are able to convey project purpose/need, design information and right of way impacts in a way the public understands. The project is designed to improve the overall safety and efficiency of the corridor in a cost effective manner with general public support.

Phase II	Construction	2020-2021
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Stakeholders are well informed of construction activities, impacts, and schedule. Traffic impacts are minimized to the extent possible, balanced with overall project duration and project costs. Safe access for area residents and businesses is provided as efficiently as possible.

Phase III

6. Available Resources and Budget

The scope of work for this project included consultant activities for public engagement. As such, the selected consultant would be required to include sufficient time and resources to accomplish the public involvement goals identified in this plan. County staff time to support project development work, including public engagement, has been budgeted in the CIP under "CIP Reimbursement to Operations".

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

None.