



## Public Engagement Plan

CSAH 88 From TH 56 to Fullerton Rd

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT - TRANSPORTATION

9/25/2017

(CP 88-20)



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

# 1. Introduction (cont.)

## Project Description:

This project includes the reconstruction and potential realignment of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 88 from Highway 56 to Fullerton Road in Randolph Township. The purpose of the project is to improve safety, address issues with the at-grade railroad crossing, and provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

This phase of the project is anticipated to take place between Summer 2017 and Spring 2018, and includes preliminary design, traffic analysis, and public involvement.

## 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:**

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

Provide ongoing communication conduit for all stakeholders (adjacent properties and traveling public).

Consider feedback from stakeholders pertaining to design decisions where appropriate.

Ensure that all interested parties are invited to participate, including minority and under-represented populations.

Create an engagement approach that is flexible and can respond to project needs and developments.

### **Public Engagement Approaches:**

#### **Open Houses**

Host two public open houses to introduce the project, understand stakeholder needs and priorities, and develop and share alternatives.

#### **Website**

Post and update the County website for this project to share project information, provide project updates, and collect feedback from stakeholders

#### **Press Releases**

Send press releases to inform the public of project milestones and engagement opportunities.

#### **Stakeholder Meetings**

Conduct stakeholder meetings to have more detailed one-on-one meetings with individuals or small groups of stakeholders that share similar interests/issues.

### 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	Website	Stakeholder Meetings	Open House	Press Release	Social Media
Nearby and adjacent residents	X	X	X	X	X
Farmers	X	X	X	X	X
Area businesses	X	X	X	X	X
Traveling Public	X		X	X	X
Private utility owners	X	X			
Dakota County staff	X	X	X	X	X
MnDNR		X			
Railroads (Progressive/UP)	X	X			
MnDOT		X			

A PMT has been assembled to discuss specific issues, design options and planning. This team currently includes Dakota County, Randolph Township Board, and the SEH consultant team. Representatives for private utility groups and environmental agencies will be brought into the discussions as the project develops. Newsletters will go out periodically to nearby and adjacent residents and business owners. Newsletters will include key project information and will act as an invite to any open houses. Directions to our website will be spelled out in the newsletter where anyone can go to find further details on the project.

## 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:**

Safety concerns at the TH56/CSAH 88 intersection, the CSAH 88 at-grade railroad crossing, and other safety concern locations

Improving safety and access for all modes of transportation along the corridor.

Potential right of way implications to impacted stakeholders.

Agricultural operation or land impacts due to potential roadway realignment.

Unknown issues

### **Public Engagement Questions:**

How can safety be addressed, particularly at the TH 56/CSAH 88 intersection?

How can the project reduce the impact to area residents and businesses while still meeting future needs?

Who is paying for this project?

What other issues or potential conflicts should project staff be aware of?

What other opportunities should project staff be aware of?

How and where can we best introduce bicycle and pedestrian facilities?



## 6. Available Resources and Budget

County and consultant 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.