



Public Engagement Plan

County Project 9-56

Physical Development - Transportation



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 9-56 includes preliminary engineering designs, surveying, and related services for the required improvements to serve as a basis for the jurisdictional transfer agreements of CSAH 9 and 179th Street in the City of Lakeville.

Engagement Level:

3 - Involve

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 project purpose and need

Share project designs

Explain need for right-of-way acquisition and the process

Share the project schedule

Keep stakeholders updated

Public Engagement Approaches:

Open Houses

Host open houses as the design progresses. Present design visuals to address anticipated questions from the public.

One on one meetings

Hold individual meetings with stakeholders who may have specific questions or are directly impacted by the project.

Website

Post and continually update the project website for project details, timelines, and meeting information.

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	Project Management Team	Website
Nearby and Adjacent Residents and Businesses			X	X		X
City of Lakeville				X	X	
Dakota County Staff				X	X	
Private Utility Owners				X		X
Vermillion River Watershed				X	X	X

A Project Management Team (PMT) will be assembled to discuss specific issues, design options and planning. A project website will be established and necessary mailings will be sent. Both will include key project information and will act as an invite to any open houses. Those directly impacted by right-of-way acquisition or drainage implications can request one-on-one meetings to go over details. 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.

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:

Access modifications

Construction staging

Drainage

Right-of-way implications

Public Engagement Questions:

Why are we doing this project?

Why do we need additional right-of-way?

Who is paying for the project?

What will the corridor look like when the project is completed?

5. Action Plan by Project Phases

Phase I

Design and Alternatives

2019

We convey project purpose and need and design elements in a way the public understands. Stakeholders will have input on design options throughout the preliminary design process and will be updated via project website and open houses.

Phase II

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."

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

None.