# Public Engagement Plan

## County Project 78-10 - CR 78

## 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 | • Explain, educate or gather information.<br>• Use when priorities and decisions are still being shaped.<br>• Can explain the issue, while gathering information to understand and perspectives and ideas of citizens. | • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments.<br>• Open houses.<br>• A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments. |
| **Level** | **Description** | **Examples** |
| **Level 2** – Discuss | • Generally involves two-way information exchange in which the public discusses a policy, issue, or research priority.<br>• Discussion among and with different stakeholders is encouraged.<br>• Can deepen knowledge by exploring and responding to ideas and concerns described by individual participants. | • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments.<br>• Open houses.<br>• A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments. |
| **Level** | **Description** | **Examples** |
| **Level 3** – Involve | • Different perspectives are shared and parties can influence each other and develop consensus.<br>• Allows the organization and participants to explore and work through issues together, understand each other's perspectives and values, and consistently address concerns. | • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments.<br>• Open houses.<br>• 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 78-10 includes the reconstruction and possible realignment of CR 78 (240th and 245th street) from the intersection of TH 3 and CSAH 79 (Blaine Avenue) in Castle Rock Township.

**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 project purpose and need

Share the project design

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

Share the project schedule

Keep stakeholders updated throughout the project

**Public Engagement Approaches:**

Open Houses
Host 1-2 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 County website for the project with 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 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nearby and Adjacent Residents | | | | X | | X |
| Castle Rock Township | | | | X | | |
| Dakota County Staff | | | | X | X | |
| Dakota County SWCD | | | | X | X | |
| Vermillion Watershed JPO | | | | X | X | |
| Private Utility Owners | | | X | X | | |
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A PMT has been assembled to discuss specific issues, design options and planning. A newsletter will be sent out that 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 the 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 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:**

Construction staging and access

Drainage

Right-of-way implications and minimizing impacts

**Public Engagement Questions:**

Why are we doing this project?

Why do we need to acquire additional right-of-way?

How will residents access their property during construction?

Who is paying for the project?

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

# 5. Action Plan by Project Phases

**Phase I** **Design and Right-of-way** 2018/2019

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** 2020

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".

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

None.