

# Lone Oak Road (County Road 26) Improvements

## Frequently Asked Questions

Updated October 2022



### Issue: Concerns for truck traffic on Lone Oak Road

Unfortunately, there are no limitations that the County or City can enforce on Lone Oak Road to limit truck traffic. Measures have been put in-place to deter truck traffic from using Lone Oak Road with signage denoting the 9% roadway grade as well as a sign near Highway 13 directing “thru trucks” to continue along Highway 13. With the designation of a County State Aid Highway, trucks must be permitted access on the roadway.



### Issue: Concerns around trail location on one side vs. both sides of the road

To promote safety, the County strives to provide trail on both sides of county highways where practical. The benefits of doing so along this corridor would allow residents with direct access to Lone Oak Road or living in adjacent neighborhoods to safely walk, bike, or roll east-west along the corridor without crossing the roadway. The feasibility of providing a trail along both sides Lone Oak Road from Highway 13 to Pilot Knob Road is still being explored but initial findings show the existing terrain may make it difficult to accommodate in certain segments. Strategic crossing locations are being reviewed near Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School to facilitate safe crossings for students and all trail users. Additional information on planned improvements will be shared at the next Open House meeting in Late Fall/Early Winter.



### When will this be constructed?

There is funding available in the County’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for improvements to Lone Oak Road in 2024. Once the Lone Oak Road Study is complete later this year, the County will review the recommended improvements to identify what that project will look like. A final design process will commence to drill down into the details for building the roadway improvements, develop the necessary construction drawings, and work through right-of-way needs.



### Can a trail be installed along Highway 13 to McCarthy Road or Yankee Doodle Road (CR 28)?

There are no current plans to provide a multi-use trail directly adjacent to Highway 13 between Lone Oak Road and McCarthy Road or Yankee Doodle Trail. A master plan for the Minnesota River Greenway Trail, which loosely parallels Highway 13, identifies a variety of connections to east-west roadway corridors to be considered with future improvements. The latest available information regarding the Minnesota River Greenway trail can be found on [this website](#).



### Issue: Concerns raised of congestion during school drop-off and release

We are actively coordinating with representatives from Pilot Knob STEM School and ISD 197 to better understand operations both internal and external to the school site during peak drop-off and release times. The intent of the project is to provide holistic corridor improvements to meet the mobility and safety needs of all users. Improvements to the internal school circulation network as well as the county roadway will be considered.

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### Issue: Attendees expressed desire to cross Lone Oak Road near Pilot Knob STEM School

Dakota County in partnership with the City of Eagan finalized the [School Travel Safety Assessment](#) in 2021 to proactively address safety for students traveling to and from area schools, with a focus on safety for those who walk and bike to school. The findings of this study provided recommendations for Pilot Knob STEM Magnet Elementary School to improve facilities on and near the site related to sidewalks and trail infrastructure, school crossings, school speed zone, roadway geometrics, and education. The Lone Oak Road Improvements project will build upon these efforts by working with school representatives and project partners to provide safe and efficient crossings for students and area residents. The first improvement from the School Travel Safety Assessment is being constructed this summer with a trail connection north of Lone Oak Road between Vince Trail and Pilot Knob Road to provide a protected crossing for neighborhood residents.



### Issue: Concern regarding the use of a trail adjacent to Lone Oak Road. Will people use the trail with how steep the roadway is?

While the existing 9% grade of Lone Oak Road between Highway 13 and Pine Ridge Drive is steeper than desired for a typical trail connection, similar accommodations can be found in communities across Dakota County. County Road 60 in Lakeville (6%), 70th Street in Inver Grove Heights (9%), Diffley Road in Eagan (7%), County Road 42 near Hastings (8%), County Road 46 in Lakeville (7%) all have similar characteristics but the overall benefit to the local community and greater system outweighs the inconvenience of navigating a steep hill. The segment of Lone Oak Road from Highway 13 to Pilot Knob Road provides the most direct connection between the expansive trail network within the City of Eagan and Minnesota River Greenway Trailhead which soon will be easily accessed with activation of the new traffic signal at Highway 13 and Lone Oak Road.