

# Lone Oak Road (County Road 26) Improvements

## Frequently Asked Questions

Updated December 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 trails on both sides of county highways where practical. 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 of Lone Oak Road from Highway 13 to Pilot Knob Road was originally explored, but initial findings showed that the existing terrain was too difficult to accommodate in certain segments. At the Open House in November 2022, the project team shared plans to provide a trail on the south side of the roadway only. Strategic crossing locations are being reviewed near Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School to facilitate safe crossings for students and all trail users.



### When will this be constructed?

There is funding available in the County’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for improvements to Lone Oak Road in late 2024 with the majority of construction occurring in 2025. Once the Lone Oak Road Study is complete at the end of 2022, the County will review the recommended improvements to identify what that project will look like. A final design process will commence to drill down 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: 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 was constructed in summer 2022, 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 is now easily accessed with activation of the new traffic signal at Highway 13 and Lone Oak Road.



### Issue: Will the project make the roadway less steep so it's easier to drive in winter?

As part of the concept and preliminary design effort, the project team looked for opportunities to lessen the overall grade of the roadway and improve sightlines for private driveways and intersecting cross-streets. Unfortunately, only minor changes can be made as any significant adjustments to the roadway profile would greatly impact right-of-way/property acquisitions, driveway grades, and overall constructability of the project.



### Issue: Is another pedestrian crossing needed by the school when walkers and bikers can cross at the traffic signal at Pilot Knob and Lone Oak Road?

The project team is working with Pilot Knob Elementary School and ISD #197 to provide pedestrian facilities near the school that best serve all those traveling through the area. The proposed pedestrian crossing west of Vince Trail/Timberwood Trail provides a much different look than what is at the intersection today. The project design will greatly reduce exposure to passing vehicles with only a single lane of traffic in each direction and the addition of a raised center median to serve as a refuge when those crossing Lone Oak Road are waiting for a gap in traffic. ISD #197 has committed to providing crossing guards during the morning and afternoon school peaks to provide additional guidance to students during the busiest times of day.

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**Issue: Will signal timings at the intersection of Lone Oak Road and Eagandale Boulevard/  
Eagandale Place be reviewed with the project?**

Dakota County will be leading a signal timing project in 2023 to develop and deploy new signal timings across multiple corridors with the county, including the intersection of Eagandale Blvd.



**Issue: Are special assessments planned for this project?**

No. Project funding will be provided through the city, county, and other federal sources