

**Diffley Road (County State Aid Highway 30) & Braddock Trail  
Intersection Improvement Project  
November 28, 2018 Neighborhood Meeting Follow Up**

The City of Eagan and Dakota County held a meeting on November 28, 2018 to share project plans for the intersection of Diffley Road and Braddock Trail. Attendees raised several concerns related to the project area along with safety concerns along Diffley Road and related to travel to and from Northview Elementary, Dakota Hills Middle School and Eagan High School. The following discussion provides an overview of the concerns raised and responses or updates regarding work the County and City are doing related to each issue. The discussion is grouped based on concern area including intersection related concerns, issues related to school operations, Diffley Road corridor and other concerns.

**Diffley Road & Braddock Trail Intersection Improvement Project**

Concerns related specifically to the intersection improvement project including:

- Bicycle and pedestrian safety
- New traffic signal operations
- New north leg geometry adding traffic to the neighborhood south of the intersection

The signal reconstruction project and intersection changes are specifically intended to improve pedestrian safety and vehicular congestion or flow concerns raised by residents and the school district. The signal design and signal timing changes are planned to improve safety. Based on input from the meeting, the design is incorporating additional sidewalk and larger landing area on the southwest corner. In addition, additional traffic analysis is being conducted and additional graphics developed to illustrate proposed traffic signal timing alternatives to share and explain at the upcoming neighborhood meeting.

**Concerns Regarding Eagan High School & Dakota Hills Middle School (ISD 196)**

Several concerns were raised regarding pedestrian safety at school driveways and walking/biking within the school grounds or at the school entrances as vehicle traffic is also trying to enter and exit the lot. Neighbors also noted concern that the intersection of Diffley Road and Braddock Trail becomes congested because all school traffic is directed to exit to the south on Braddock toward the traffic signal. Some suggestions raised during the meeting included:

- Connecting Northview Elementary School to Dakota Hills Middle School
- Installing a walking path from Diffley Road to the Dakota Hills Middle School parking lot
- Stationing flaggers/police officers at the school driveways before and after school

The City and County are continuing conversations with ISD 196 regarding overall traffic circulation and the issues identified above. An update on these conversations will be provided at the upcoming neighborhood meeting.

## **Diffley Road in the Adjacent Area Concerns**

Concerns were shared regarding pedestrian safety and connection between schools on the north side of the road and businesses and homes on the south side of Diffley. Some suggestions raised by residents during the meeting include:

- Install a pedestrian bridge or underpass
- Reduce the speed limit
- Reduce the roadway cross section (3 lane)
- Install a school speed zone
- Install a crosswalk at Daniel Drive

The City and County are exploring options in response to the above feedback. An update will be provided at the upcoming neighborhood meeting.

## **Other Concerns**

Several other concerns discussed at the neighborhood meeting along with the City/County responses are as follows:

- Can the City install sidewalks or provide a walking area along the roadway in the neighborhood south of Braddock?
  - A petition for a neighborhood financed sidewalk would be welcomed for consideration by the City Council.
  - The request to consider making the first block south of Braddock Trail one-way with a marked pedestrian area along the roadway would place additional traffic on other city roadways in the area.
- Can snow removal/ storage be improved in the southwest corner to provide more room for pedestrians in the winter?
  - Public works crews have increased their snow removal efforts there, and will remove snow to the fullest extent possible.

Updates on the City/County actions will be further discussed in the upcoming Neighborhood Meeting, which will likely occur at the end of January or in February.

The additional review being conducted will provide options regarding moving forward. Please note, recommendations that come from discussions such as changes with the school or pedestrian accommodations along the corridor could potentially move forward on separate schedules from intersection improvements. Further discussion regarding options and schedule will be part of the next neighborhood meeting.

The City will provide dates for an upcoming neighborhood meeting and any plan approval dates to the email list gathered at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Information will also be posted to Next Door.

Be sure to check the City and County web sites for additional information and updates:

City web site: <https://www.cityofeagan.com/construction-projects>

County web site:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/PlannedConstruction/CR30Braddock/Pages/default.aspx>