

Cliff Road Study: Common Concerns and Responses

Issue: Concern for traffic speeds on Cliff Road

Response: Posted speeds for urban and suburban County roadways are established through a speed study and authorization from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Given the overall conditions along Cliff Road and the current travel speeds, a speed study would not likely result in a lower posted speed than the current 50 mph.

Traffic calming measures and enforcement are the best way to address traffic traveling over the posted speed. The recommended typical section — two-lane divided with separated trail facilities — should make the roadway feel narrower which may slow drivers down. The recommended roundabout at the Dodd Road intersection should also result in slower speeds.

Issue: Concerns around trail location on north side of road versus both sides of the road

Response: Safety for all users of the County roadway is a key objective in all Dakota County projects. To promote safety, it is County practice to include a trail on both sides of County highways where practical.

A trail on the north side provides east-west movement for neighborhoods north of Cliff Road to safely reach intersections where a crossing of Cliff Road will be provided. Any trail on the south side of Cliff Road must consider recommendations from the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan and Cliff Road Transportation needs.

Issue: Right of way impacts

Response: The right of way impact anticipated for property owners along Cliff Road is still being investigated. A two-lane divided typical section will allow the roadway to pinch in where necessary to limit impacts to the natural resources and properties along either side of Cliff Road.

The width of the median between travel lanes will vary based on the space available. This configuration also provides flexibility to incorporate turn lanes where necessary. Impacted property owners will be contacted as projects are identified for construction and as the project moves into final design.

Issue: Construction dates

Response: Funding is available for improvements in 2021. After the study is complete, the County will review the recommended improvements and formulate an implementation plan for future Cliff Road construction projects. A final design process will be completed on the future construction projects that will provide the roadway improvements, develop the necessary details and work through right of way needs. Public outreach will be ongoing throughout the remainder of the Cliff Road Study and future construction projects.