

HIGHWAY 212 NEWSLETTER

Newsletter #2
September 2014

Carver to Norwood Young America
Corridor Access Management, Safety & Phasing Plan

Project Purpose

Carver County and the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition (SWCTC) have been pursuing an upgrade of current Highway 212 between the City of Carver and Norwood Young America. To achieve this purpose, Carver County and MnDOT have undertaken an extensive planning effort to explore the best ways to address access, safety, freight, economic development, and mobility needs by staging improvements over time, especially for the 4.6 mile segment between Carver and Cologne. The study has also investigated lower-cost ways to make improvements in the corridor, while working towards the long-term conversion of the corridor to a four-lane expressway facility.

Project Update

In November of 2013, Carver County, SWCTC and MnDOT hosted a public open house to explore various design options that could achieve the corridor's vision. Since that time, using public and stakeholder input, the Project Management Team (PMT) has revised preliminary concepts and evaluated four different design options. The purpose of this evaluation process is to help identify the layout that best meets the corridor's vision, goals and objectives. The evaluation process used a range of criteria to determine each option's feasibility in achieving the four-lane expressway vision, while minimizing environmental, historical, and right-of-way impacts, reducing project costs, and maximizing funding resources.

As part of this assessment, the PMT also reached out to the freight community to better understand their needs along the Highway 212 corridor. Key findings from these interviews determined that Highway 212 is a major freight corridor; is a vital component to the state's economic prosperity; and that a four-lane facility is needed to eliminate a significant freight flow bottleneck and address shipper mobility and safety concerns.

Funding & Improvement Update

Carver County is actively pursuing funding opportunities to reduce safety issues, improve freight movement, and implement the four-lane vision for Highway 212. The County has targeted the following potential funding sources: the Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Corridors of Commerce, and County and MnDOT funds. The County will be able to apply for a number of these funding opportunities (e.g., Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation and Corridors of Commerce) this fall.

Funding is not available to make significant improvements to Highway 212 despite the clear safety and mobility needs. However, there is no guarantee that any funding will be available in the near future to meet these critical needs. Therefore, Carver County and MnDOT will be seeking smaller scale, high benefit/lower cost safety and freight improvements that could be undertaken soon. These upgrades might include turn lanes, wider shoulders, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) improvements at key intersections that will complement work leading to the corridor's long term expressway vision. For example, Carver County and MnDOT are pursuing interim safety improvements at County Road 34 and 43. These intersections have been identified by the study as high crash/high risk intersections. Safety improvements will include Rural Intersection Conflict Warning Signs (RICWS). RICWS use a combination of static signing, detection, and dynamic elements, to provide drivers with a dynamic warning of other vehicles approach the intersection.

We are seeking your input on the preliminary study findings, on the latest corridor design options, and proposed project improvements at the open house. Please plan to attend, and then participate in the SWCTC's Candidate Forum to be held immediately after the Open House

Highway 212 Access Management Study
c/o SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
One Carlson Parkway North, Suite 150
Minneapolis, MN 55447-4443

Postage

Mailing Label

HIGHWAY 212 Open House

Open House Agenda

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Highway 212 Open House

7:00-8:00 p.m.
Southwest Corridor
Transportation Coalition
(SWCTC)

Candidates Forum

October 2, 2014 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Chaska Community Center

1661 Park Ridge Dr, Chaska, MN 55318

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