



WRIGHT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

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Project Update/Newsletter

Wright County CSAH 38 (70th Street NE) Project

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Wright County has been developing the preliminary design of the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 38 from Odean Avenue NE to Highway 101. This newsletter is provided to update the public on the progress of the project.

Background: The project goals include improving safety along the corridor and replacing the deteriorated pavement. The proposed improvements will widen the roadway shoulders to current standards and construct right-turn and left-turn lanes. The vertical alignment will be modified to improve sight distance. The project will also flatten the slopes into the ditches and remove fixed objects from the roadside clear zone to improve safety. The project includes a recreational trail on the north side of the highway.

Open House: There were over 40 persons in attendance at the June 8, 2017 Open House to discuss proposed improvements. Many of the questions raised at the Open House focused on specific impacts to individual properties. These specific questions will be addressed in one-on-one meetings between the property owner and Wright County staff in the near term as the project progresses.

Many of the open house participants asked similar project questions. Below are responses to the general project questions from the June 8, 2017 open house.

Question 1: I'm concerned about high traffic speeds on the roadway. What can be done to lower traffic speeds along the project corridor?

Answer 1: While Wright County will oversee construction of the roadway improvements and maintain the new roadway, only MnDOT has the authority to establish speed limits on this type of roadway. Once the project is completed. See here for additional information: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/speed/index.html>.

Question 2: I'm concerned about noise along the roadway and the potential noise increase with the improved roadway. Are plans for noise mitigation included in the project?

Answer 2: Noise mitigation such as the construction of a noise wall or earthen berm are more common with projects that include substantial changes to the roadway character such as expansion from two lanes to four lanes, or the addition of an overpass. The proposed roadway improvements to 70th Street NE will not require a traffic noise analysis under the current guidelines.

Question 3: There are mature trees and bushes along the roadway that provide screening between my house and the road. Will these trees and bushes be removed as part of the project?

Answer 3: The roadway improvements include a wider shoulder and flatter side slopes. This will require the contractor to remove some vegetation (trees and bushes) from the roadsides. The road improvements have been designed to minimize the limits of construction and impacts to trees along the road.

Question 4: There are driveways and intersections along 70th Street NE where it is difficult to see oncoming traffic due to hills and dips in the road. Will this be improved?

Answer 4: During the design process, line of sight concerns were carefully analyzed. The proposed improvements include regrading parts of the road to fill in some of the dips and cut down some of the crest hills resulting in safer line of sight conditions.

Question 5: How will access to my home be affected during construction?

Answer 5: All property owners along 70th Street NE will have access during construction. There will be times when access may be limited by the contractor's operations. Through traffic will be detoured.

Project Schedule: Preliminary design is nearly complete and right of way parcel acquisition meetings have begun. It is expected that construction activities would begin as early as May 2018 and open to through traffic by fall of 2018. Final paving may not be completed until spring of 2019 and final turf restoration would then be accomplished during the summer of 2019.

Whom may I contact with questions?

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