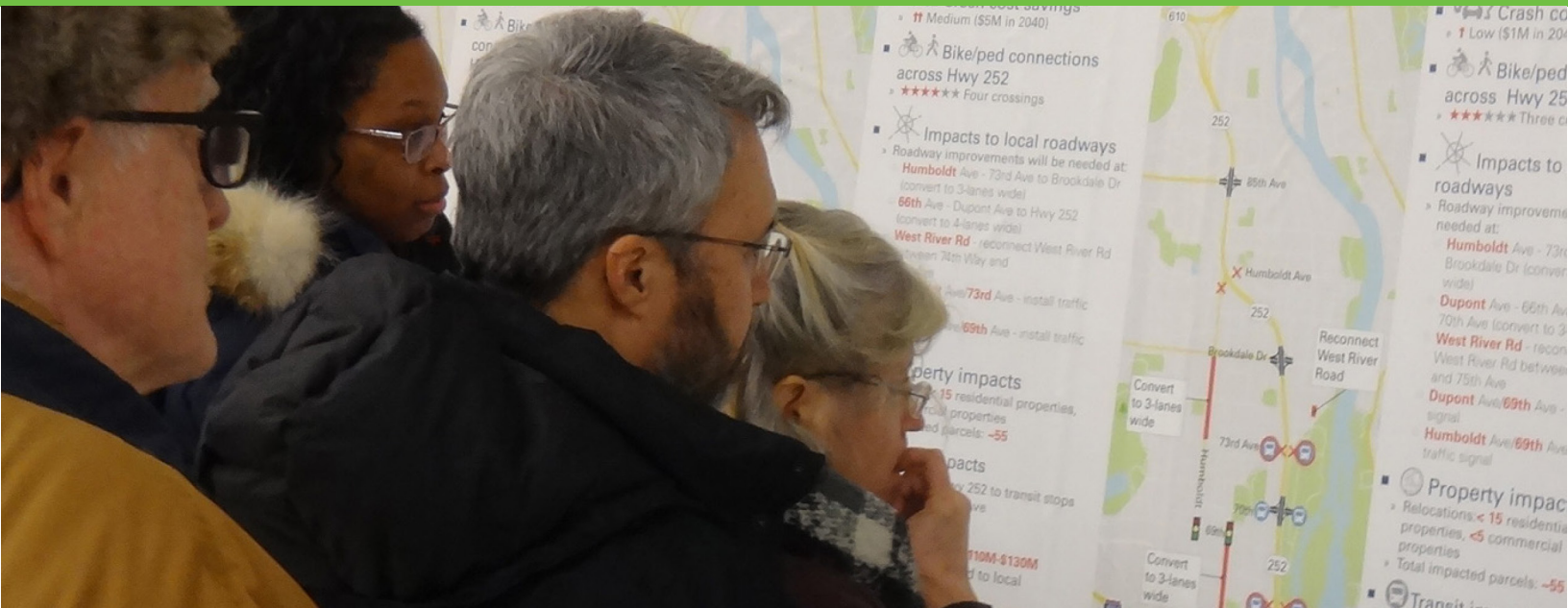


HIGHWAY 252/I-94 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

ROUND 2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Winter 2018-2019



Introduction

This executive summary provides results from the second round of community engagement for the Highway 252 / I-94 Environmental Review project. Engagement events were held at a variety of locations along the project corridor from December 2018 through January 2019 to gather feedback from community members regarding future improvements to the Highway 252 / I-94 corridor.

This summary is organized by type of engagement event. Engagement events included community workshops, pop-up activities, and an online survey.

Community Workshops

These public events offered multiple activities to comment on the project:

- Brooklyn Park Community Workshop
- Brooklyn Center Community Workshop
- Minneapolis Community Workshop

Overall Themes – Combined from Both Workshops

Top three themes gathered from all individual comments provided by participants at the three community workshops included:

- Concerns about sound impacts, soundwalls and traffic noise reduction
- Impacts to and integration of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and movements
- Impact on transit stops/routes, and access to those stops
- Efforts to reduce or minimizing the project's impacts (during construction and through its overall land footprint) on adjoining neighborhoods, including residences and businesses

Pop-Ups

Pop-up events occurred at the following locations.

- Ebenezer Community Church
- Brookdale Crossing Shopping Center
- North Hennepin Community College
- Zanewood Recreation Center
- Riverview Apartments
- Webber Park Library
- Cub Foods
- Festival Foods

Overall Themes from Pop Up Events

- Many participants are long time residents of Brooklyn Park, with one participant residing off of Highway 252 on River Road for 18 years
- General agreement that changes need to be made to the road
- Recommend to continuously engage the church community because of parishioners' heavy reliance on Highway 252 and the pastor's high level of influence in the Liberian community
- Communicate the urgency of community input at this stage of the project to residents (even though the project does not start for a few years) - participants individually understood that there are phases to the project but there may be need to provide this information in a more culturally appropriate and/or colloquial way
- Business owners are not aware of the changes coming to Highway 252 / I-94
- There is a concern about inadequate lighting along the highway
- Short cross street signal times make it difficult to get across and may cause additional congestion
- Better outreach needs to be done to engage business owners along the corridor, as they were not aware of the project
- All that spoke to the team were in favor of a highway due to current congestion
- Participants expressed concern that Highway 252 as it is today is very unsafe
- The Highway 252 / I-94 interchange is dangerous
- Some participants expressed concerns about construction activities since project would be in a residential neighborhood
- Highway 252 is not safe for people walking
- Glad that transit stops are getting reconfigured as part of the project
- The overall feeling from participants about the project was positive
- There are concerns over construction and logistics, so being ready to answer those concerns at future events would be helpful
- Mailing flyers to affected addresses when construction extents and schedules are finalized would be useful

Online Survey

An online survey was promoted and distributed to the public. Nearly 500 people provided responses.

Overall Themes from Online Survey

Question 1 - What is the best way to improve safety on the corridor?

- Majority of respondents selected the option to convert Highway 252 to 6-lane freeway with an additional lane on I-94 from Hwy 252 to Dowling Avenue (this option was recommended by the project team and materials provided to the public indicated as such)

Question 2 - Where should access be provided? If the configuration of Highway 252 changes to a freeway, access points (entry and exit) will need to change.

- The majority of respondents selected Access Alternative 1: Interchanges at 85th Avenue, Brookdale Drive / 73rd Avenue, and 66th Avenue

Question 3 - What is the best type of access for each location on Highway 252?

- A. 85th Avenue
 - The majority of respondents preferred a tight diamond configuration
- B. Brookdale Avenue
 - The majority of respondents preferred a tight diamond configuration
- C. Humboldt Avenue
 - The majority of respondents preferred an overpass configuration
- D. Brookdale Drive / 73rd Avenue
 - The majority of respondents preferred a split diamond configuration
- E. 73rd Avenue
 - The majority of respondents preferred an underpass configuration
- F. 70th Avenue
 - The majority of respondents preferred the closure of this access location
- G. 66th Avenue
 - The majority of respondents preferred a folded diamond configuration

Question 4 - How should additional lanes on I-94 be used?

- A. Respondents were split between leaving additional lanes open and designating additional lanes as MnPASS.