

## MnDOT Cass Lake Highway 2 Corridor Study Public Engagement Plan

### Principles

- Local ownership of engagement process: Key stakeholders make decisions about who is engaged, how they are engaged, and when they are engaged.
- Transparency: The process that led up to the creation of this study and the range of potential outcomes are understood by everyone who participates in the study.
- Accountability: Everyone who participates in the study will have the opportunity to review the engagement results and understand how the results informed the study.
- Consistency: Members of the public hear the same messages from all agencies.

### Goals

- Inform those impacted by Hwy 2 about the study
- Gather input on design alternatives for Hwy 2
- Develop a vision for Hwy 2 with strong public and stakeholder support
- Position MnDOT to secure funding to implement the vision

### Methods

#### Steering Committee

A steering committee of local stakeholders will guide the study team and shape public engagement strategies. The steering committee will meet 3-6 times over the course of the study.

#### Roles:

- A Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) leader will chair the steering committee, determine the list of people to invite, and convene meetings.
- Alta will provide logistical support to the steering committee chair, such as setting up video call links, helping to develop meeting agendas, and preparing meeting summaries.
- Alta and MnDOT will present information at meetings and respond to input/questions from the steering committee.
- Steering committee members will share study information with their networks, serve as points of contact for the public, and bring public input back to MnDOT.

#### Virtual Engagement

- Develop a study webpage hosted by MnDOT with background information. Update with public input and documents produced by this study.
- Share information and opportunities to participate in the study via LLBO social media accounts, DeBahJiMon newspaper, and Cass Lake Times.
- Develop online survey accessible via computer or mobile device.
- Directly solicit feedback on LLBO Facebook Page, such as by asking a poll question or inviting comments.

#### In-Person Engagement

- Present at Cass Lake Local Indian Council meetings and gather input.



- Create flyers for each round of engagement to post in public areas, at interested businesses/buildings, and on street poles.
- Connect directly with identified stakeholders as needed.

## Process

The study will include three rounds of engagement. In each round, Alta and MnDOT will develop materials for review by the Steering Committee and revise as necessary. Once materials are approved by the steering committee, they will be shared with the public.

### Engagement Round 1: Introduce the Study (March-May 2022)

- Prepare Round 1 engagement materials:
  - Website with study background/context
  - Flyers
  - Social media posts
  - Newspaper article
- Convene steering committee. Steering committee reviews study scope, public engagement plan, and Round 1 materials.
  - If needed: Update Round 1 materials and public engagement plan in response to steering committee input. Convene steering committee to review and approve.
- Publicize study with the public:
  - Post flyers and social media posts with basic information and links to the website.
  - Representative of the study attends Cass Lake Local Indian Council (LIC) meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 5pm) to introduce study.
  - As needed: representatives of the study connect directly with identified stakeholders (could include in-person discussion with a business owner, visiting a high school or college class, etc.)
  - Members of the public will be encouraged to share ideas for Hwy 2 via website, directly on social media, at the LIC meeting, and/or by speaking with members of the steering committee.
- Track input received

### Engagement Round 2: Share Design Alternatives and Ask for Feedback (June-September 2022)

- Summarize input received in Round 1 and update website.
- Develop design alternatives.
- Prepare round 2 engagement materials:
  - Online survey
  - Flyers
  - Social media posts
  - Newspaper article
- Convene steering committee. Steering committee reviews design alternatives and round 2 engagement materials. Steering committee revisits public engagement plan and revises as necessary.
  - If needed: Revise design alternatives and round 2 engagement materials. Convene steering committee to review and approve.
- Publicize design alternatives and ask for input:
  - Post flyers and social media posts with basic information and links to the website.
  - Representative of the study attends Cass Lake LIC meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 5pm) to ask for feedback.
  - As needed: representatives of the study connect directly with identified stakeholders (could include in-person discussion with a business owner, visiting a high school or college class, etc.)

- Members of the public are encouraged to respond to the design alternatives for Hwy 2 via website, directly on social media, at the LIC meeting, and/or by speaking with members of the steering committee.
- Track input received

**Engagement Round 3: Share What We Heard in Round 2 and Next Steps (October-December 2022)**

- Summarize input received in Round 2 and update website.
- Prepare round 3 engagement materials:
  - Flyers
  - Social media posts
  - Newspaper article
- Convene steering committee. Share feedback received, recommended design alternative, and round 3 engagement materials. Steering committee revisits public engagement plan and revises as necessary.
  - If needed: Revise recommended design alternative and round 3 engagement materials. Convene steering committee to review and approve.
- Publicize recommended design alternative, share feedback received, and next steps:
  - Post flyers and social media posts with basic information and links to the website.
  - Representative of the study attends Cass Lake LIC meeting (2nd Monday of each month at 5pm) to present study results.
  - As needed: representatives of the study connect directly with identified stakeholders (could include in-person discussion with a business owner, visiting a high school or college class, etc.)

**Key Stakeholders**

- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Cass Lake-Bena Public Schools
- Cass Lake Local Indian Council (LIC) members
- Cass Lake City Council
- Hardware Hank
- MD Pawn & Bait
- Johnson Lumber
- Safari Liquor
- Pike Bay Township Supervisors
- LLBO Planning
- Indian Health Service
- Cedar Lakes Casino
- Cass County
- Leech Lake Market (Formerly Teal's)
- City of Cass Lake
- Leech Lake Tribal College
- Che We Express
- Leech Lake Tribal Council
- Cass Lake Fire Dept & LLBO Transportation