



Hwy 371 Study

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 23, 2020

Welcome! We will get started in a few minutes. If you can see this screen and are having issues technology issues or concerns, please call 612-422-8853.

WELCOME



You are muted and your video is disabled upon entry.



Please utilize the "chat box" to type in comments or questions throughout the session. Questions will be answered after the presentation during the Q & A session.



If you experience any technical difficulties, please call 612-422-8853 or email tess.heller@hdrinc.com

WEBEX FEATURES

Change your **Video Layout**  to control where you view video participants and panels on your screen.

Choose **Floating Panel View**  to position any panel where you want it - even on a second monitor.

Access the **Meeting Info**  to get details about the meeting.

Meeting controls hide when you're not using them and then re-appear when you move your cursor.

Meeting Info Panel:
Quarterly Analytic Visualizations
Host: Catherine Sinu
URL: <https://company.webex.com/meet/csinu>
Meeting number: 555 123 456
video address: csinu.company@webex.com
Audio connection:
US Toll 1-555-123-4567
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SAFETY MOMENT

Beat the heat!

- If you choose to use legal fireworks during the 4th of July weekend, be sure to:
 - Never allow young children to handle fireworks
 - Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
 - Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
 - Never light them indoors
 - Never point or throw fireworks at another person
 - Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
 - Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
 - Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire

AGENDA

- Project Overview & Updates
- Engagement Summary
- Current Preferred Design
- Parking Option Analysis
- Hwy 371/County Highway 5 Intersection
- MnDOT's Cost Sharing Policy
- Open Discussion
- Next Steps

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- MnDOT will be reconstructing Hwy 371 through Hackensack (between County Road 40 and County Road 5 in Hackensack) in the next few years.

Benefits:



Increase
safety



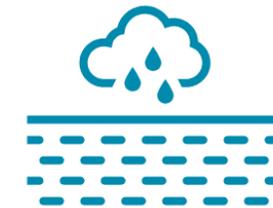
Reduce
speed



Improved or new
bike and pedestrian
facilities



Improve County
Rd 5 intersection



Improve
drainage

SCHEDULE



Here's what we've been up to...

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Summary

- One-on-one meetings with 19 businesses and property owners along the corridor from November 2019 – February 2020
- 3 Public Advisory Committee Meetings
- Chainsaw Days (2019)
- Sweetheart Days (2019)



371 Hwy 371 Study

PROJECT UPDATE:
Over the past few months, our project team has been regularly meeting with a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to help shape the vision for the Highway 371 corridor and to provide input on design alternatives to best meet that vision's needs. The committee is also helping to identify issues in the community and act as ambassadors for sharing information about the project to encourage participation. Additional engagement also occurred at key community events that took place this fall. The corridor vision that we are creating is important to establish at the beginning of the study because it will help guide the future design for the project. Our project team will continue engaging the community throughout the different stages of the project.

Project Schedule

Time Period	Key Activities
FALL/WINTER 2019	Stakeholder input and alternative development
WINTER 2020	Preferred alternative development
SPRING 2020	Community stakeholder engagement and preferred alternative selection
SUMMER 2020 - WINTER 2021	Ongoing engagement
FALL 2020	Begin final design
2021-2023	Project development and design
SPRING 2023	Tennessee construction

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN RENDERING:
The design concept shown includes one travel lane in each direction, a center turn lane, and sidewalks and parallel parking on both sides through the downtown area. A roundabout is being considered at the intersection of Highway 371 and County Road 5.

LOCAL BUSINESS MEETINGS:
Before we further develop this concept, MnDOT will be meeting with several businesses along the corridor to discuss the design features and gather input. A member from our project team will be reaching out directly to adjacent property owners to schedule one-on-one meetings in early December. Those businesses will be receiving a call from our project team within the week. However, we are happy to meet with any interested business owner in the area. If you do not receive a call from our project team but would like to schedule a meeting, please contact tess.nejedlo@hdrcinc.com. All meeting requests are welcome!

ONLINE MEETING OVERVIEW

 Duration: **May 8–25, 2020 (17 days)**

 **Website Access Sources:**

Social Media Link	Direct Link	Referral Link	Internet Searches
71%	18%	10%	1%



Top Response Locations:

- Brainerd
- Breezy Point
- Brooklyn Park
- Hackensack
- Maple Grove
- Pequot Lakes
- Pine River
- Richfield
- Roseville
- Walker



Total Online Visitors:

1,411 people



Total Form Responses:

430 submissions



Average Time on Site:

3:36 minutes

Online Meeting Link

<https://mplshdrshared.com/hwy371/>

ONLINE MEETING PROMOTIONS

- Targeted Facebook Ad
 - Duration: May 9 – May 25 (about two weeks)
 - Audience: 15 mile radius of Hackensack
 - Engagement: 774 link clicks, 90 engagements, over 13,000 people saw the ad on their newsfeed
- GovDelivery Email
- Website Update
- PAC Email
- Chamber of Commerce Email

Change is coming to Hwy 371 in Hackensack! We need your input on safety and traffic flow improvements for this area before construction begins. Explore the virtual open house any time before it closes on Monday, May 25 to view our team's early designs and let us know what you like or dislike. Start exploring today: hwy371study.com/

While you're there, sign up for project email updates. Once you're done, share this virtual open house link with family, friends and coworkers who travel in this area so they can learn more about this project, too.



CONNECT WITH US AT HOME!

HWY 371 STUDY

MINNESOTA
371

HWY371STUDY.COM
MnDOT | Hwy 371 Study [Learn More](#)

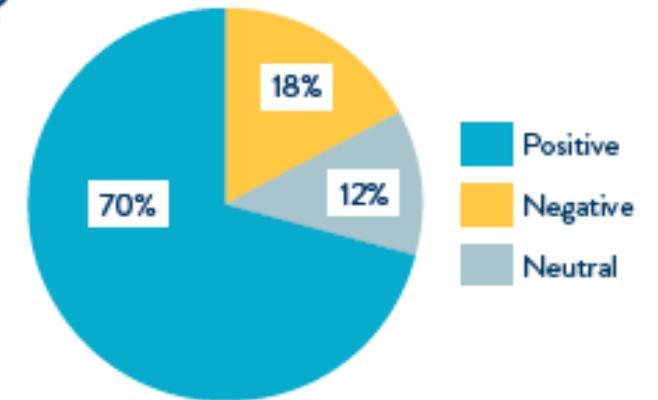
Welcome to our Highway 371 virtual engagement! The...

ONLINE MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

Do you like sidewalks on both sides of Highway 371 throughout the downtown area?

THEMES AND INSIGHTS:

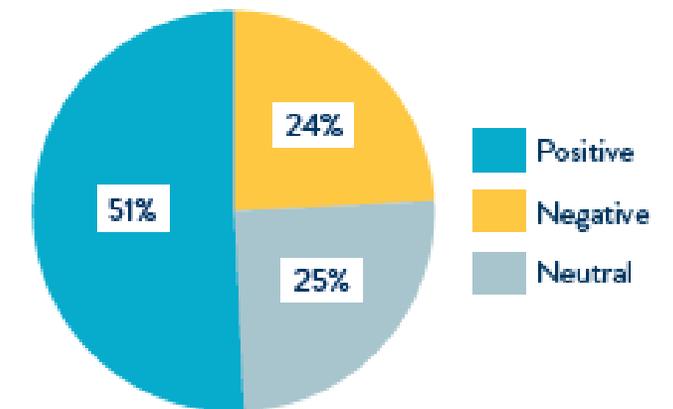
- **Business Access:** Feels safer and more customer friendly
- **Parking:** Not enough parking; makes deliveries harder
- **Safety:** Greatly improve safety, especially for older and disabled; lots of walking and biking in summer
- **Pedestrians:** Not needed on both sides; walkers use Paul Bunyan; unnecessary expense
- **Walkability:** Encourage people to walk to businesses instead of driving



Do you like the parking on both sides of Highway 371?

THEMES AND INSIGHTS:

- **Business Access:** Poor large truck/trailer access, parallel design limits parking
- **Parking:** Need spaces on both sides, convenient both directions, promotes development
- **Safety:** Structured parking improves pedestrian safety
- **Pedestrians:** Pedestrians will cross randomly
- **Speed:** Parking on both sides slows traffic

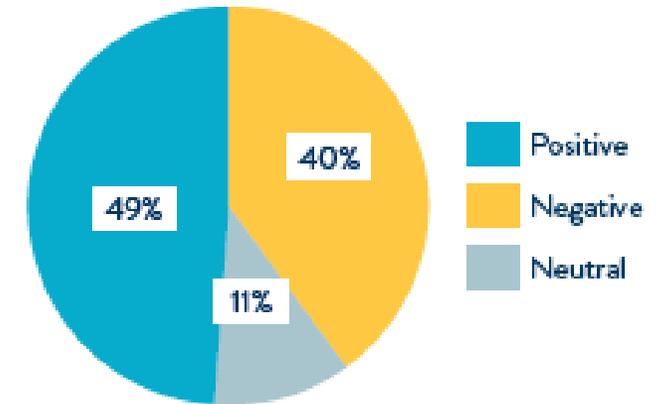


ONLINE MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

How do you feel about having a roundabout at this location?

THEMES AND INSIGHTS:

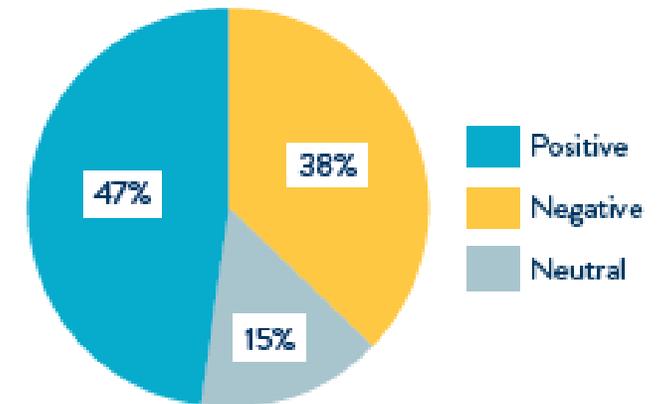
- **Negative Feelings:** Strongly dislike roundabouts; concerns about impact on Swanson's
- **Positive Feelings:** Safer than current design; keeps traffic moving



How would you feel driving through this type of intersection?

THEMES AND INSIGHTS:

- **Negative Traffic Impacts:** Confusion will cause delays
- **Negative Safety Impacts:** Confusion will cause crashes
- **Negative Business Access and Parking:** Difficult for large trucks
- **Positive Safety Impacts:** Current design unsafe; people get used to them; provide user education
- **Positive Traffic Impacts:** Slows down traffic, but keeps it moving

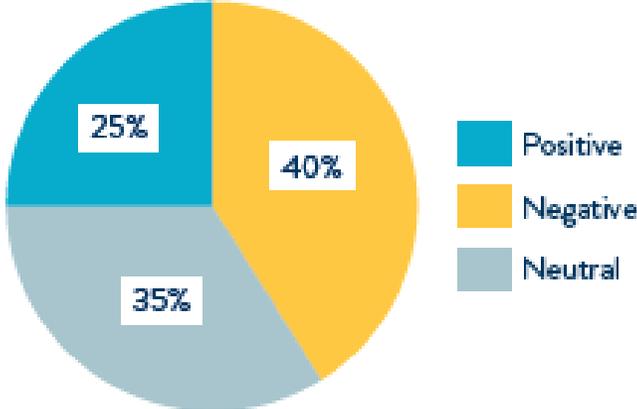


ONLINE MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

How would you feel walking or biking through this type of intersection?

THEMES AND INSIGHTS:

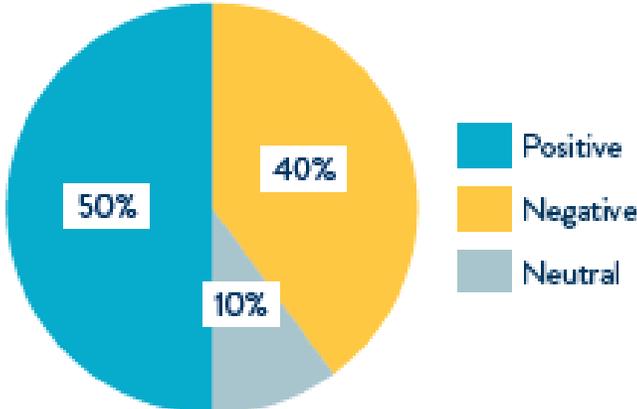
- **Negative Traffic Impacts:** Confused drivers and poor visibility; less safe for bikes and pedestrians
- **Negative Safety Impacts:** Constant traffic flow makes crossing hard
- **Positive Safety Impacts:** Reduces crossing distance, traffic from one direction; need clear crosswalks
- **Positive Traffic Impacts:** Slows traffic



What are your initial reactions about this intersection option?

THEMES AND INSIGHTS:

- **Negative Feelings:** Too confusing; difficult for large trucks; not needed; bad for Swanson's
- **Positive Feelings:** Seen them work elsewhere once people adapt; slows traffic but keeps it moving; will need to be big enough



OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

- “ The highway works well to move people quickly through town, but is not inviting people to stop and enjoy Hackensack.
- “ Entering the highway is sometimes difficult due to traffic and poor sight lines. Crossing on foot (especially with kids) is sometimes worrisome due to traffic. Some places (hardware store) don't have clear entrances to the parking lots so it's a bit of a free for all.
- “ Road access around Swanson's is dangerous, with people zooming in and out at different speeds, and others backing out of parking spots into the road. I wish it was safer to walk along the 371, and to cross it as a pedestrian.
- “ The intersection of Highway 5 and 371 is a bit dangerous in the summer...a lot of traffic heading north and south on 371 and also exiting Swanson's gas station. There are so many intersection streets at that point. Also, there are no designated safe pedestrian crosswalks to stop traffic on 371. Parking is a problem.
- “ I don't see any need for improvement unless you could plant some trees in town to soften the “everything is paved” look. I have not noticed a disrespect for the 30 mph speed either. I would think the roundabout would be nice on busy weekends but...have the potential of creating a serious bottleneck in town or entering town from the north on busy weekend lake home traveling.
- “ 371 and county 5 intersection is dangerous especially during the summer season. Entire stretch through town could use center turn lanes for better traffic flow.
- “ My family and I live and work in town. There is not much to like about the current outdated highway layout unless all you intend to do is drive in a car. We enjoy walking and biking whenever possible. The 371 and County 5 intersection is a free-for-all during the tourist season, you get multiple cars from the crossroads... trying to jump out on the highway at any given moment not knowing who is going to move and when.
- “ The five way intersection by Swanson's is dangerous...a lot of people patronizing the business, coming from town plus the through traffic and people turning from co rd 5. It's like a ballet sometimes to coordinate all the movement without getting killed.
- “ I like that there is parking close to businesses I visit. I do not like... no sidewalks and it is not safe to walk along the highway especially in summer. It is also difficult to cross the highway in summer.

Let's take a look...

HERE'S WHERE WE ENDED UP



CURRENT PREFERRED DESIGN

- Based on stakeholder and community input, our project team identified an initial design concept to move forward for additional review and development

Elements

- 3-lane option
 - One thru lane in each direction and a center turn lane
 - Parallel parking
 - 6' sidewalk on each side of Hwy 371 throughout the downtown area
- Meets the project goal to enhance mobility and safety for all users
- Stays within the existing MnDOT right-of-way



CORRIDOR RENDERINGS



Input needed:

OPEN DISCUSSION



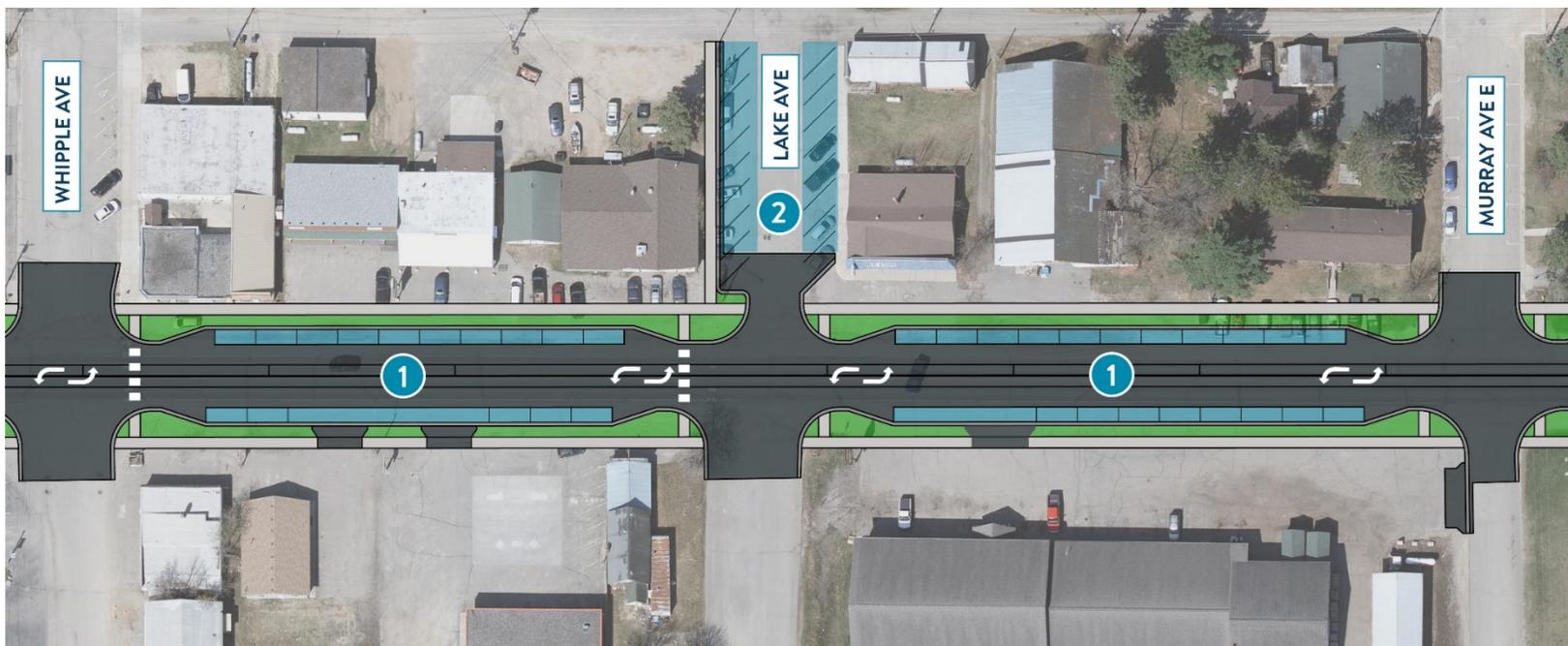
Improving safety:

DOWNTOWN AREA IMPROVEMENTS

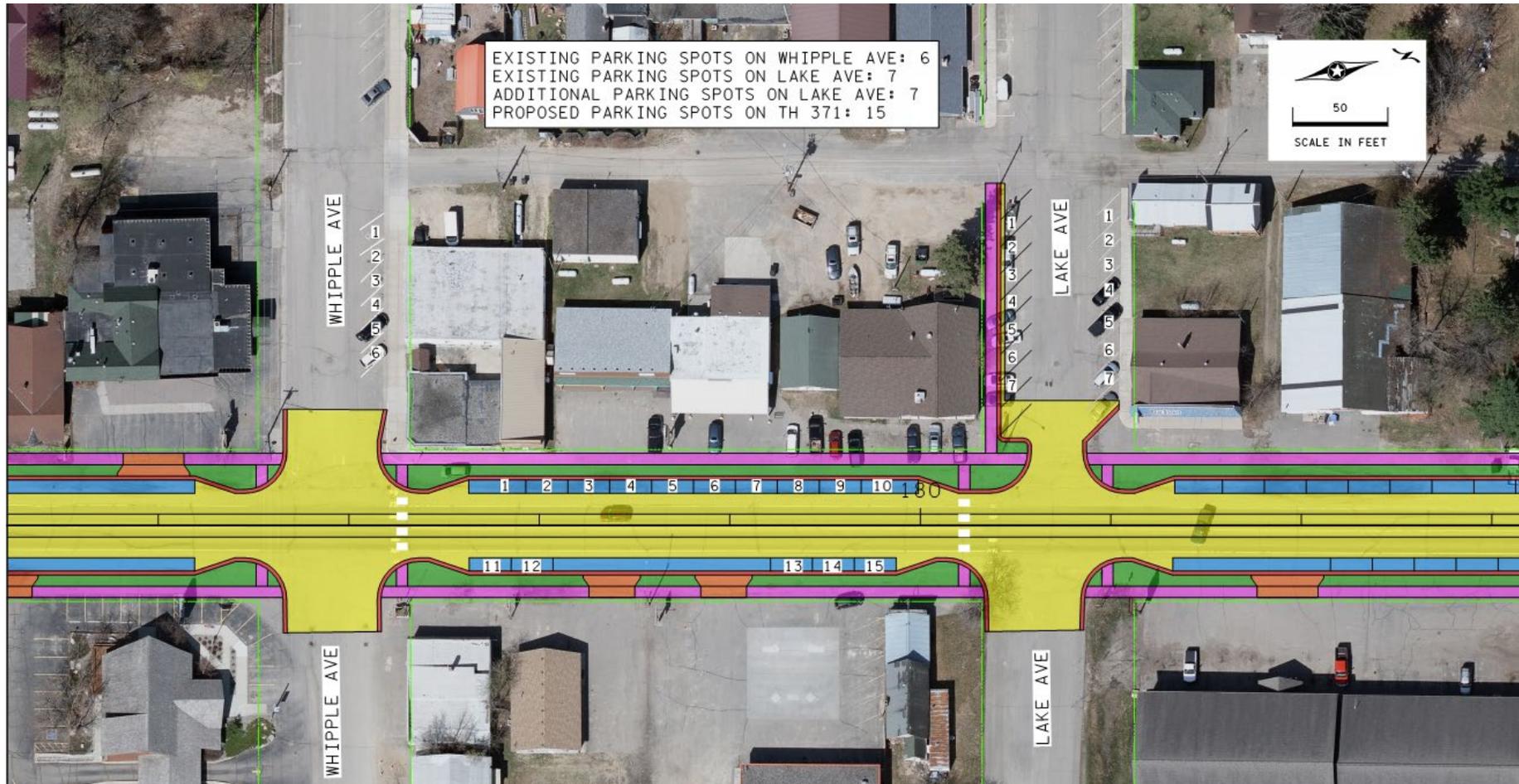


PARKING

- Parallel parking spaces will be available in the downtown area on both sides of Highway 371 between Murray Ave. and Whipple Ave.
- The sidewalk on Lake Ave., west of Highway 371, will be extended to the alley and additional parking spaces will be available on the street.



PARKING



PARKING



Corridor Impact:

HWY 371/COUNTY HWY 5 INTERSECTION



ROUNDABOUT

Elements

- Roundabouts are designed to accommodate a wide range of vehicle types such as semi-trucks, fuel tankers, as well as vehicles pulling a boat or a trailer. Each roundabout is designed to fit the needs of the specific location.
- The roundabout will be designed with crosswalks for pedestrians and bicyclists to navigate through the intersection.
- Provides a speed reduction measure at the intersection for traffic approaching Hackensack from the north as well as traffic leaving Hackensack from the south.

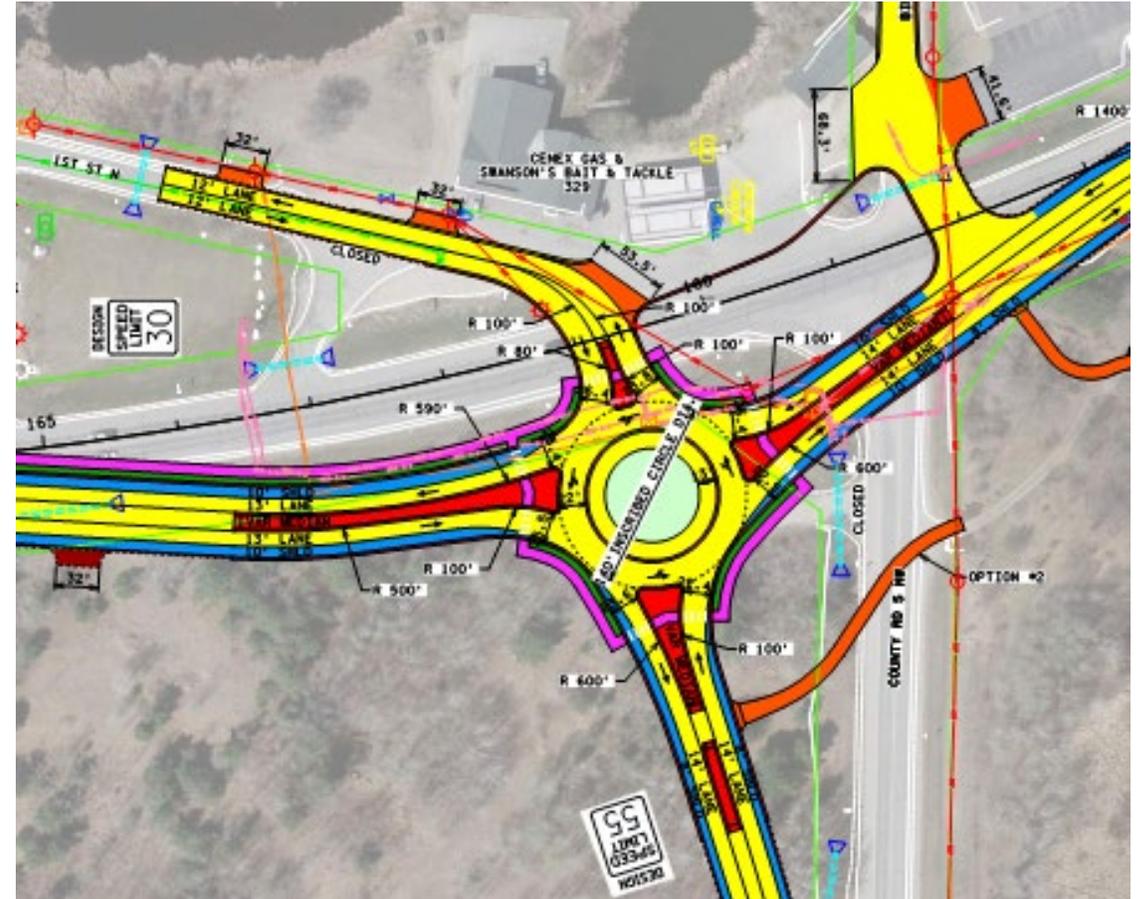
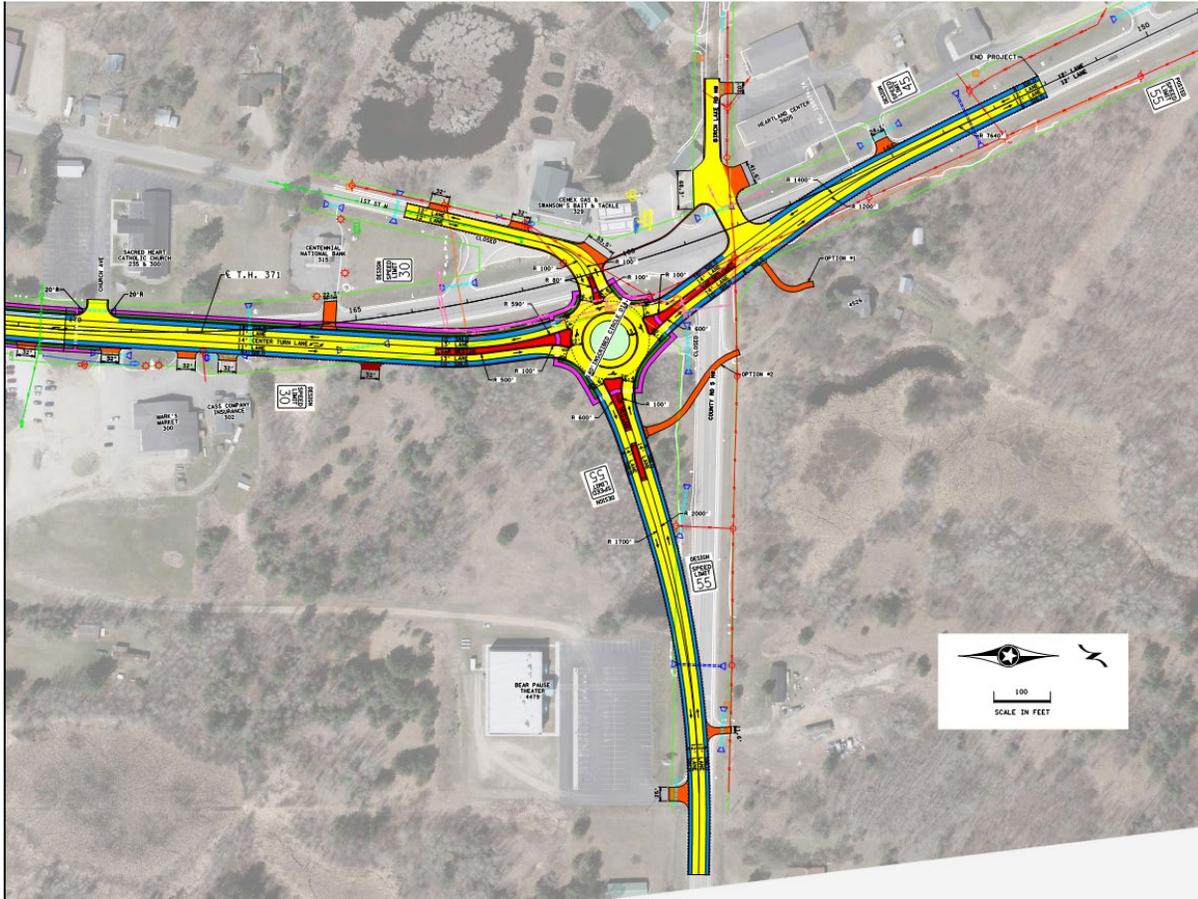
Benefits

- Allow motorists to get through the intersection more safely and in less time
- Handle more traffic with less delay than most stop signs or traffic signals
- Slow traffic down to make entering and exiting the area easier for all users
- Reduce the risk for higher speed crashes as traffic volumes increase

SEE THE INITIAL ROUNDABOUT DESIGN



ROUNDAABOUT DESIGN



SIDE STOP CONTROLLED DESIGN



Input Needed:

OPEN DISCUSSION



Input Needed:

MNDOT COST SHARING

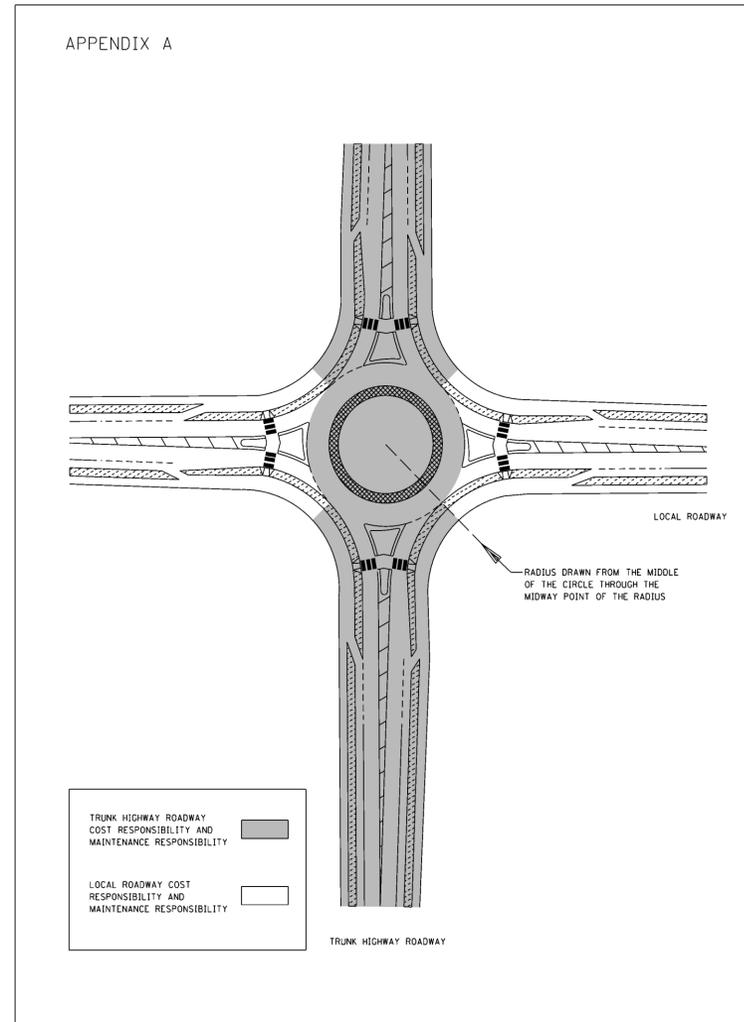


COST SHARING

- New sidewalks and pedestrian ramps – 100% MnDOT cost
 - Includes standard concrete walk and grass boulevard
 - Colored concrete additional cost to the local agency
 - Paving of the boulevard cost to the local agency
- Shared use path – 100% MnDOT cost (located north of Murray Ave. to CSAH 5)
- Parking lanes – 90% MnDOT cost, 10% local agency
- Curb and gutter – 100% MnDOT cost
- Storm sewer and culverts – 100% MnDOT cost
 - Local agency is responsible for routine maintenance of drainage elements within incorporated Cities
 - MnDOT owns and performs routine maintenance for ponds on MnDOT right of way
- Aesthetics (2%) – upgrades to street lights, planters, benches etc. (around \$80,000 from MnDOT towards the upgrades)

COST SHARING - ROUNDABOUTS

- MnDOT's responsibility is the shaded area shown, representative of the TH 371 legs of the roundabout. Local agencies are responsible for their respective legs of the roundabout construction.



Looking Ahead:

NEXT STEPS





Stay Connected:

Contact:

 Cole Nelson, *Project Manager*

 cole.nelson@state.mn.us  651-234-7534

Learn More:

 www.mndot.gov/d2/projects/hwy371-hackensack



Sign up for the project mailing list to receive updates and learn about opportunities to help shape the vision for the corridor.