



## Record of Meeting

SRF No. 11748..00

**Location:** Online WebEx Meeting  
**Client:** MnDOT District 6  
**Date:** December 3, 2020 – 3:00 PM  
**Subject:** SP 2405-32 US 65 / E Main St – Albert Lea, MN  
Middle Segment  
**Attendees:** Tom Austin and Cindy Morgan (MnDOT District 6),  
Steven Jahnke and Chris Lowe (City of Albert Lea)  
Tim Hruska (WHKS), Joel Johnson (SRF)  
Public Attendees – see attached attendance list.  
**From:** Joel Johnson, PE  
**Copy:** All Stakeholders

Note – the meeting minutes are a brief record of the meeting; the meeting was recorded and is available for a complete review of the discussion.

### Purpose of Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with local businesses, commercial property owners and residents in the Middle segment of the project to discuss proposed intersection and access modifications to improve safety, and to address any questions or comments that arise.

### Summary of Meeting

#### Introductions

Tom listed off the panelists - Tom Austin and Cindy Morgan (MnDOT District 6), Steven Jahnke and Chris Lowe (City of Albert Lea), Tim Hruska (WHKS) and Joel Johnson (SRF).

#### Project Overview

Tom provided an overview of the project from Newton Ave on the west to the I-35 Ramps on the east – highlighting the pertinent construction happening in each of the three main segments.

- The West Segment containing the raising of the existing road with road reconstruction to lessen future flooding impacts and to provide better pedestrian access and facilities.
- The Middle Segment containing a new signal at Garfield Ave, and intersection modifications including designated pedestrian routes to improve motorized vehicle and pedestrian safety.

- The East Segment containing Reduced Conflict Intersection modifications to improve motorized vehicle safety by lessening severe right angle, or “t-bone”, type crashes.

### **Middle Segment Design**

Being the focus of the meeting, Tom went into more detail regarding the improvements being made in the West Segment. Noting the following:

- A new signal at Garfield Avenue.
- Revisions to intersection to lessen the potential conflicts for the vehicular traffic.
- Revisions to pedestrian facilities to provide designated crossing and providing some pedestrian refuges in the median to provide a stage crossing if needed.
- Traffic will be maintained throughout the project in this area, but there would be two detours during the project – one west segment with the road raise and a shorter duration detour at the east end for a culvert replacement.

Tom then opened up the floor to any questions or comments from the participants.

- Dr. Dan Smith noted that he was not concerned about access during the project but was concerned about access in the future. Two thirds of his clients come from the west and go to the east and would need to do either a U-turn or traffic will need to take a more circuitous route and come down St. Thomas Ave which tends to be more congested with street parking especially during winter.
- Kris Burnett (1411 E Main St) was concerned about the hill on Ramsey and sending more traffic over that hill. She also noted that the alley behind her house could further cut off access to and from US 65 and wondered what the speed limit might be with the new project. Tom noted that the speed limit would not change, and Tim said that the new lane width configuration would be narrower which will likely encourage drivers to slow down. Kris asked and Tom confirmed that there would continue to be sidewalk in front of their property.
- Dr. Dan Smith asked if there were any statistics regarding crashes and pedestrian safety for these areas. Tom discussed the high level of right-angle or “T-bone” crashes and how reducing the conflict points will help; He also noted that, while extensive pedestrian statistics are not available, there was a recent accident with a personal mobility scooter and the improvements should help. Joel further explained the benefits from reducing conflicts and Tim noted the number of crashes at St. Thomas. The team discussed the benefits of mainline traffic taking a left at Columbus Ave.
- Burnett noted that there is current parking on E Main St – is that going away? Tom said there was no plans to eliminate it but noted that the shoulder width would only be six feet so parking out there might be uncomfortable.
- Dr. Dan Smith asked about possible assessments for some of this work. Tom said the portion funded by the State would not seek assessments, and Steve said that potential assessments by the City have not been determined.

In general, the audience saw the benefits of the improvements even if there were some inconveniences created by the improvements.

**Action Items**

N/A

**Actions Needed**

Actions Needed	Responsibility
N/A	