



Location: Online WebEx Meeting

Client: MnDOT District 6

Date: December 4, 2020 – 8:00 AM

Subject: SP 2405-32 US 65 / E Main St – Albert Lea, MN
East 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:

- The introduction of Reduced Conflict Intersections.
- A new shared use path from Garfield Ave out to the east separation of US 65 and East Main Street.
- There will be a short duration detour on the east end for culvert installation. A longer duration detour would be in place in the west segment for the road raise construction.
- Addition of left turn lanes at Ulstad Ave and an east bound left turn lane to the northerly frontage road just east of Ulstad.
- Intersection at Fenton Ave will be closed and people needing to access Fenton to either side of US 65 would go past the previous intersection to the new median U-turn (MUT) then make a U-turn and go back to Fenton.
- Intersection at Morningside Ave will be come a full RCI which implements opposing left turns at the intersection and the MUTs on either side.
- Intersection at Prospect Ave will be closed and people needing to access Prospect to either side of US 65 would go past the previous intersection to the new MUT then make a U-turn and go back to Prospect.

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

- Cliff/American Family asked if these drawings are available outside today. Cindy directed him to the Resource link and tab on the project website. Cliff has seen a lot of accidents over the years and thinks this will help make it safer. Noted that it will not be free but thought the cost would be worth it. He assumes it will be all shiny and new when complete and Tom explained where new construction was occurring and where pavement rehabilitation will occur. Cliff said he liked the MUTs in Marshall, MN, and was disappointed in the lack of attendance at the meeting. Cliff's son owns Wuerflein Honda in the area as well.
- Tom explained the rough funding for the project with the majority of the project being State funded, but there are some items that has a City cost share so there may be an assessment for that work but that has not yet been determined and would likely be a small.
- Mick/Owner Morris Furniture 1909 E Main St – 30,000 sq ft show room. He is concerned access may be a problem – City project is occurring on the back side of the property this coming year and this project would be the following year and the assessments/cost are a concern to retailers in the area. Tom and Steve explained that traffic will be maintained on the mainline with no detours planned to go to Stevens Ave.

- Mick was concerned about older people knowing how to get around on it, but if they use it correctly, they should be able to get across safely. Peggy noted that the new VA is coming into town and will get a fair amount of traffic coming off 35 and going to the VA.
- Tom explained how to jump across the through lanes and enter the protected left turn lane directly. Joel noted that changes in Minnesota law to make this maneuver legal.
- Mick asked if this work would affect semi traffic and how they maneuver. Tom explained that the proposed improvements are designed to accommodate large trucks as well as passenger vehicles. Maneuvering to and from the furniture store warehouse on the southwest corner of US 65 and Columbus Ave.

In general, the audience saw the benefits of the improvements in the area.

Action Items

N/A

Actions Needed

Actions Needed	Responsibility
N/A	

12/4/20

Attendance Count	User Type	FirstName	LastName	Email	Company
1	Panelist	Steven	Jahnke	sjahnke@ci.albertlea.mn.us	
2	Panelist	Chris	Lowe	clowe@ci.albertlea.mn.us	City of Albert Lea
3	Panelist	Tom	Austin	tom.austin@state.mn.us	
4	Panelist	Joel	Johnson	jjohnson@srfconsulting.com	
5	Panelist	Tim	Hruska	thruska@whks.com	
6	Attendee	harriet	Hemenway	hemenwayharriet@yahoo.com	
7	Attendee	Sheila	Thoma	sheila.thoma@state.mn.us	
8	Attendee	Mick	Kenis Kenis	mickandpeg@hotmail.com	Morris Furniture
9	Attendee	Brian	Morgan	cindy5433@hotmail.com	
10	Attendee	Cliff	Wuerflein	cwuerfl1@amfam.com	
11	Attendee	Travis	Stortroen	traviss@davesyverson.com	