

Highway 60 Windom Corridor Study Listening Sessions

Phase 1 Summary

Last revised 2/20/2020

Overview

The Highway 60 Windom Corridor Study conducted four listening sessions on February 10, 2020 at the Business, Arts & Recreation Center (BARC) in Windom. The purpose of the listening sessions were to collect targeted feedback on corridor issues, opportunities and priorities from the following Highway 60 corridor users:

- Trucking and bus corridor users
- Schools and recreation coordinators
- Chamber and businesses adjacent to the corridor
- Residents, elected officials and community groups



Phase 1 Business Listening Session

Invitations

Listening session participants were solicited through direct phone or email invitation from project staff, or through an email sent from the Windom Chamber of Commerce to their members.

Sixteen people attended the business listening session, three attended the resident session, two participated the trucking and busing session, and one person attended the school and recreation session.

Highlights

The following section summarizes the takeaways from the listening sessions.

General

- Drivers have challenges taking left turns throughout the corridor. Commonly reported intersections include: 16th St/Hwy 60, N Hwy 60/Hwy 71, and S Hwy 60/71.
 - 16th St/Hwy 60 and N Hwy 60/Hwy 71 are particularly challenging to cross at 3:00 p.m. when Toro and the hospital have a shift change and the schools let out.
- Traffic, particularly semi-truck traffic, speeds into town from the north and south.
- It feels unsafe to walk and bike in the corridor.
 - Pedestrians would like to cross Hwy 60 at 16th St access the recreation center and baseball field, but there is no marked crossing. Some expressed support for a pedestrian bridge at this intersection to help pedestrians cross the highway safely.

- Traffic flow and speed management were commonly reported priorities for corridor improvements; however, many also expressed the importance of pedestrian and bicyclist improvements to make crossing the corridor safer.
- Many expressed support for roundabouts, including from trucking and busing companies, as long as they are large.
- Many expressed support for center left turn lanes throughout the corridor to help traffic safely make left turns. However, many people stated that they would not want MnDOT to extend their ROW through town and remove businesses.
- There was some support for a four to three lane conversion, but some people expressed concern for greater congestion after taking away two travel lanes and drivers getting rear-ended when slowing down to take a right turn.
- Some shared support for limiting accesses in town to improve safety and traffic flow, but there was some opposition from the local business community.
- Some support for a Hwy 60 bypass to ease congestion and reduce speeding truck and commuter traffic through town, but opposition from the local business community.
- Many expressed opposition to J-turns.

Trucking & Busing

- The primary existing conditions issues for trucking and busing is left turns and congestion.
- The trucking and busing companies expressed concerns encroaching on other travel lanes when making turns in the corridor, particularly at the Hwy 60/Hwy 62 intersection.
- There was support for increasing travel time through town to improve safety.
- There was strong support for two large roundabouts located at both Hwy 60/Hwy 71 intersections.
- There was opposition to constructing another traffic light in town.

Schools & Recreation

- The school's priorities for corridor improvements are improving pedestrian access and slowing traffic.
- The lack of shoulders through town is unsafe. It requires police to wait until they are out of downtown to pull someone over.

Businesses

- The primary issues with existing conditions reported by the business community are taking left turns and speeding.
- Many businesses stated it's important to keep accesses; however, some were open to limiting accesses to critical areas to improve safety.
- The business community expressed support for improving pedestrian crossings, including on Hwy 71 at Hospital Dr to connect walkers and bikers to the existing hospital trails.
- There was support for aesthetic improvements in the corridor but concerns about maintenance for landscaping and greenery.
- Many businesses opposed a bypass and expressed concerns about a bypass being studied as part of the project.

Residents

- Residents reported their primary corridor issues are taking left turns and speeding.
- Residents expressed opposition to property impacts and expanding MnDOT's ROW in the corridor.