

Hwy 60 Windom Corridor Study Community Event

Phase 1 Summary

Last revised 12/17/2019

Overview

The Hwy 60 Windom Corridor Study consultant engagement staff conducted a “pop-up” table at Windom’s Winter Wonderland Craft Show on December 14, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Business Arts & Recreation Center, 1012 5th Avenue. The purpose of this event was to collect feedback from community members about the opportunities and issues they see within the Highway 60 study area and identify community priorities for roadway improvements. Staff spoke with approximately 100 community members.

Comments were collected through the following engagement activities:

- **Project information flyer:** An informational project flyer was distributed at the event to drive people to take an online survey. The survey collects information on corridor issues, opportunities and community priorities.
- **Mapping activity:** A tabletop aerial map of the corridor directed people to place stickers near the areas in the corridor that they like and dislike walking, biking or driving.
- **Priorities exercise:** A tabletop exercise directed people to place two ornament on the trees corresponding with their top priorities for corridor improvements.



Creating ornaments at the Windom’s Winter Wonderland Craft Show

Community Comment Summary

The following sections describe the key findings from the event. The comments under the Existing Conditions section are listed in the order of their prevalence. Findings at the top of the list were more commonly reported than those at the bottom.

Existing Conditions

- Many people reported it is challenging for drivers to make **left turns in the corridor** because of traffic volumes and speed. Many also reported that left turns on Highway 60 can feel dangerous if they need to make the turn from a travel lane. Places identified as challenging to take left turns include:
 - Highway 60/16th Street intersection (particularly during rush hour with Toro employees)
 - Highway 60/North Highway 71 intersection (particularly during rush hour with Toro employees)
 - From 15th Street and 13th Street onto Highway 60

- From 4th Avenue onto Highway 71 (Drivers need to turn their whole body to see oncoming traffic)
- From Langley Street onto Highway 71
- Many people reported traffic, particularly semi-trucks, are **traveling too fast** when they enter town from both the north and south.
- People stated they would like a safer **pedestrian crossing at the Highway 60/16th Street intersection**. This is the most convenient route for kids to walk or bike to the baseball fields after school.
- People reported that **walking in town feels unsafe** because the sidewalks are located directly adjacent to travel lanes and there is a lot of semi-truck traffic. Some reported biking also feels dangerous because of narrow shoulders and semi-truck traffic.
- People like the two traffic lights at the Highway 60/6th Street intersection and the Highway 60/2nd Street intersection because they slow traffic and make it easy for pedestrians and vehicles to cross Highway 60. However, it is still challenging for drivers on Highway 60 to take left turns at the traffic lights.
- Some people reported that the southbound left turn lanes on Highway 60 to 1st Street and South Highway 71 are dangerous. Drivers taking a left onto Highway 71 will enter the turn lane for 1st Street and continue to Highway 71. Drivers entering the Highway 71 turn lane need to check for traffic that entered the turn lane before 1st Street.
- One person stated that it is challenging for semi-truck traffic to safely merge onto southbound Highway 60 from Prime Pork and the truck wash because there are no acceleration lanes.
- One person stated there are bad snow drifts at the Highway 71/4th Avenue intersection.
- One person reported it is challenging for school buses to take right turns from southbound Highway 60 onto 12th Street and 13th Street. The buses do not have enough room to make this turn so they need to cross into the other travel lane on Highway 60 or the other lane on these local streets into oncoming traffic.
- One person stated he liked Commen Park adjacent to Highway 60 between 12th Street and 13th Street. The park provides an opportunity for local artists to showcase work to all corridor users.



Identifying corridor issues and opportunities in the mapping activity



Residents deciding their priorities for roadway improvements

Community Priorities

- The “other” category and pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure were identified by community members as their top priorities for corridor improvements. See Table 1 below for full results.

- Those who selected “other” commonly provided written-in responses about intersection safety infrastructure and a bypass. The following comments were written in:
 - No roundabouts (x2)
 - No J-turns or roundabouts
 - Want center turn lanes
 - No roundabout, no bypass
 - No bypass, no J-turns
 - No bypass (x2)
 - [Yes] bypass (x4)
 - Roundabouts are blessings and curses
 - Intersection safety (roundabouts, traffic lights)

Table 1: Community selected priorities for corridor improvements

