

## May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Hamline & Snelling Safety Improvements Project Information meeting

### MnDOT, City, County and Consultant staff present:

- Mike Barnes, MnDOT Metro District Engineer
- Melissa Barnes, MnDOT Metro North Area Manager
- Sheila Kauppi, MnDOT Metro District Deputy Engineer
- Fay Simer, MnDOT Metro North Area Coordinator
- Joy Miciano, MnDOT Consultant
- Joe Lux, Ramsey County Senior Transportation Planner
- Todd Blomstrom, Arden Hills Public Works Director
- Marc Culver, Roseville Public Works Director

### Chat recording:

May 19, 2020 5:54 PM Good evening! Music is playing, if you cannot hear, please check your computer audio.

May 19, 2020 6:01 PM Hello! The moderator is speaking, if you cannot hear, please check your computer audio. Thank you for joining us!

May 19, 2020 6:09 PM 80 lives in 16 years?

May 19, 2020 6:12 PM What was the speed of the northbound traffic on Snelling in the most recent fatality?

May 19, 2020 6:15 PM Traffic on Old Snelling was never supposed to be able to turn onto Hamline Ave. once the left hand turn from northbound Snelling was eliminated at this area.

May 19, 2020 6:15 PM Kelly Moller - our State Rep is on

May 19, 2020 6:16 PM I'm here to listen and learn!

May 19, 2020 6:17 PM It looks like Fran Holmes, Steve Scott and myself are also on the call, so all AH City Council members and mayor are on.

May 19, 2020 6:17 PM What will be done to prevent U turns on southbound Hwy 51 at Glenhill? I have observed emergency vehicles, City of Arden Hills vehicles and garbage trucks in the past two months.

May 19, 2020 6:17 PM The increase in traffic on Hamline Ave would pose a danger to Lake Josephine walkers, that only can walk on the shoulder.

May 19, 2020 6:18 PM I am one of those making the u turn or a right turn on Glenhill, u turn, then through the intersection. I have no intention to stop making that turn unless they eliminate the hard turn arrows on Snelling, especially at 3am.

May 19, 2020 6:18 PM We have not witnessed an increase in the left turn light at Lydia.

May 19, 2020 6:19 PM I think we need to consider the fact that the amount of U-turns at Glenhill and Lydia seems far more dangerous than having a safe turn lane at Hamline.

May 19, 2020 6:20 PM How many accidents were at the Snelling and (1) Cty Rd C intersection and (2) Lydia intersection? How many fatal crashes have been on Snelling Ave. in the time period 2008-2018? And where?

May 19, 2020 6:21 PM Wouldn't isn't decreasing the ridiculous speed allowed on Snelling being considered? Isn't high speed a main cause of accidents?

May 19, 2020 6:21 PM What does MNDOT care where the vehicles go when they make a turn?

May 19, 2020 6:22 PM since closing this, lots of back up's in the morning rush hour commute. Especially on snow days. This has greatly increased since this closing. Also I have to turn left in which we have to go to Lydia or C2 which lets about 3 people turn on these turn lanes. On a snow day 1-2 cars get to turn on the left turn lanes in these intersections. These area

May 19, 2020 6:22 PM The lights at Lydia and at County RD C2 W have been much more dangerous pedestrians than the crossing of Hamline and Snelling. How are you addressing those issues? How are you tracking those issues?

May 19, 2020 6:23 PM these areas have also increased congestion because of the closure.

May 19, 2020 6:23 PM You have a number of children and students crossing at Lydia, far more than any other intersection in the area.

May 19, 2020 6:23 PM Snelling is surrounded by houses between Lydia and County E, yet MnDot is fine with traffic going between 60-65 mph.

May 19, 2020 6:23 PM And Northwestern students

May 19, 2020 6:23 PM If this is a "safe issue" why isn't Glenhill turning left against south bound Snelling being closed?

May 19, 2020 6:24 PM I do also think closure of the Left lane of Snelling to Hamline has cause much more issues than when it was open.

May 19, 2020 6:24 PM Are you saying that you will allow bicycles and walkers to walk thru the Hamline Avenue barriers?

May 19, 2020 6:25 PM And there it is: they're open to minor modifications. ie what was said last fall, that Arden Hills staff have actually already signed off on this.

May 19, 2020 6:26 PM That data you just spoke about estimates a 70% increase of traffic on Lydia Ave to go to S bound Hamline. Which is a significant increase of vehicular traffic to the residential area on Lydia Ave, causing increased risk to residence, bus stops for school age children, walkers, runners, bicycling and quality of life for those living on Lydia and surrounding area.

May 19, 2020 6:26 PM what is the real reason for this proposed closure?

May 19, 2020 6:27 PM you said the wire barriers saved 80 lives since 2004

May 19, 2020 6:27 PM Can you repeat what will be done at Glennhill and Snelling?

May 19, 2020 6:27 PM Have you alerted residents on Lydia that you are increasing traffic on the avenue?

May 19, 2020 6:27 PM Exactly. This isn't to actually consider public ideas for us who live here - they just want to placate all of us who are upset. Very disappointing.

May 19, 2020 6:28 PM Lower speed also saves lives!

May 19, 2020 6:28 PM Will the cable median barrier effectively stop jaywalkers from crossing the grass median? I've seen some dashing across the highway westbound. Very dangerous during darker hours.

May 19, 2020 6:28 PM definitely more traffic going South in the morning, please consider if you're going to permanently close to make lights a little longer than the 3 cars that could turn on a green arrow. Also, they have the North bound land to go West on Lydia for the NWU and there is no cars but going left we are backed up 6 cars.

May 19, 2020 6:28 PM I am assuming that the purpose of the possible closure is to safely cross Snelling and is not concerned with the destination following a crossing. While I am in favor of keeping the road totally open, wouldn't two other possible alternatives be more user friendly than total closure? First, a no left turn could be in place for a few hours a day and keep it open for eighteen to twenty hours where the gap is available. Also, u type turns such as being installed on hwy 65 near East Bethel. This would avoid the "gap" issue and still allow the free flow of traffic without having to go through three to five traffic lights.

May 19, 2020 6:28 PM any chance of something more scenery friendly than a cable median?

May 19, 2020 6:29 PM Traffic on Old Snelling was never supposed to be able to turn onto Hamline Ave. once the left hand turn from northbound Snelling was eliminated at this area.

May 19, 2020 6:29 PM County Commissioner Mary Jo Mc Guire has joined us.

May 19, 2020 6:29 PM Both the World Health Organization and NHTSA list excessive speed and distracted driving as the highest risks for accidents? What will be done to correct this?

May 19, 2020 6:29 PM I live in the home incorrectly labeled as “New Horizon Academy” on the bottom right of the first slide. Although there has only been 5 crashes and one the close calls are daily. Before it was closed I constantly heard screeching tires and just waited for the sound of impact. I have two sons and have always feared the day they start driving and need to navigate this intersection. Although I’m significantly impacted by the increase in commute time multiple times daily, the safety risk far outweighs the inconvenience. I’m in support of permanently closing this down.

May 19, 2020 6:30 PM We live on Glenhill Road directly off Hamline near the turn we are talking about (we can see where the turn is). We have noticed a huge drop in traffic on our street. We have many kids on the block. It's appalling how fast cars "bomb" down our street. This has reduced significantly since the closure.

May 19, 2020 6:30 PM I am all in favor of the permanent closing. Before, cars would race across Snelling, and then race south on Hamline. This helps to slow the traffic on Hamline southbound.

May 19, 2020 6:30 PM Is the eventual plan to prevent northbound turn onto Snelling from Glenhill?

May 19, 2020 6:30 PM How about the fatality on Snelling Avenue south of the Country Rd E exit?

May 19, 2020 6:31 PM Is the closing of this intersection already a done deal?

May 19, 2020 6:31 PM Also, it is too dangerous for Mounds View and Roseville students to cross Snelling in this way. At dusk, it is particularly dangerous.

May 19, 2020 6:32 PM Can you elaborate on other pedestrian-focus upgrades for Hamline/Snelling crossing?

May 19, 2020 6:32 PM They would drive slower if the highway patrol was doing more patrol work.

May 19, 2020 6:35 PM You mentioned Snelling work in 2025. What will that include?

May 19, 2020 6:35 PM can we somehow extend green arrow light going left on Lydia or C2

May 19, 2020 6:35 PM How will the cable median barrier work for residents who live in the Glenhill Rd neighborhood and have no roadway to walk/bike on to get out of their neighborhood, other than Snelling Ave?

May 19, 2020 6:35 PM how does one file pedestrian issues outside of a police report of an accident?

May 19, 2020 6:36 PM 2008-2018 there were 3 fatality from Cty Rd C to Highway 694; Ctry Rd C; Hamline and south of Ety Rd E access traveling north on Snelling.

May 19, 2020 6:38 PM I have used that crossing in the past (Hamline and Snelling) as a cyclist and would request that you keep it open.

May 19, 2020 6:38 PM Please put a gap in the cable median barrier there.

May 19, 2020 6:38 PM You have referenced accidents at intersections. You are proposing to install median cable barriers, how many vehicle crashes have there been where vehicles have crossed the median in this area?

May 19, 2020 6:39 PM Is it legal to jump a cable median barrier?

May 19, 2020 6:40 PM I request it stay open also

May 19, 2020 6:40 PM Lydia and Hamline see multiple pedestrians and bicyclist every day. How will you be making these popular streets more friendly to non vehicles? This is often the only way for people to access the park or actual sidewalks.

May 19, 2020 6:41 PM Did you research ways to make the current turn lane more safe, such as extending the turn lane itself or making it larger?

May 19, 2020 6:41 PM Still not answering question of left turn lanes on Lydia and C2

May 19, 2020 6:42 PM yes

May 19, 2020 6:42 PM How about a 'no left turns' sign during rush hour at Hamline and Snelling?

May 19, 2020 6:42 PM That seems pretty cost effective

May 19, 2020 6:42 PM Have establishing trees in the median of Snelling been considered for helping to slow down traffic? This has been a proven method in urban development of thwarting speed-creep.

May 19, 2020 6:43 PM What about a light for the turn like on 280 and Broadway?

May 19, 2020 6:43 PM I don't appreciate that you slipped this in as part of the 35W issue as a way to just close it; quite sure you were hoping nobody noticed.

May 19, 2020 6:43 PM rush hour, not as many people traveling North in the morning.

May 19, 2020 6:44 PM Another question I have is about Hamline Ave in Roseville. Currently a number of businesses are on that roadway. There are numerous high density residential properties on this roadway as well. How is taking traffic off of this roadway considered a good thing for businesses?

May 19, 2020 6:44 PM Have you looked at pedestrian-data resources such as Strava ([strava.com](https://www.strava.com)) to get data about the traffic patterns of non-vehicles?

May 19, 2020 6:45 PM MY question is the purpose of the I-35W project was to add lanes, improve commuter times and ease smaller suburban trunk streets, yet you close this intersection for safety. If after the opening of 35W you still believe Snelling and Hamline to be a safety concern how does that make the controlled intersections any safer? We still have an increase in traffic at Lydia and C2 Snelling intersections in vehicles and pedestrians. If you close one with less accidents then why not 2 intersections with more documented accidents?

May 19, 2020 6:45 PM The mandatory left turn arrows at C-2 and Lydia that run 24/7, without a yellow blinking arrow is a key problem, but government has never removed these or changed them to the yellow blinking arrows ever that I know of.

May 19, 2020 6:45 PM You are skipping questions. Please answer them all.

May 19, 2020 6:46 PM We live on Glenhill near Hamline ave. We have appreciated the reduced traffic on Hamline in the evening. Our neighborhood streets and Hamline ave are much quieter as a result of this closure. We support the permanent closure.

May 19, 2020 6:46 PM Why not put a left turn signal light at Hamline and Snelling that is activated when there are cars in the turn lane. North bound traffic would not be stopped very long.

May 19, 2020 6:46 PM In Michigan, a road like this would have blinking yellow on Snelling and blinking red on C-2 and Lydia at 3am.

May 19, 2020 6:47 PM another signal could also slow down traffic on Snelling.

May 19, 2020 6:48 PM Oh that's a nice idea Linda! Seems to be a nice middle ground.

May 19, 2020 6:48 PM I have waited on Lydia in the morning commute to turn southbound left for 8 minutes...way to long

May 19, 2020 6:48 PM Will you post answers to all questions asked since some questions have been skipped?

May 19, 2020 6:48 PM A question for Marc Culver, can we get the MSA designation removed from Hamline north of Josephine road with this closure so those tax dollars can be used for actual arterial roads and have those homeowners along that route pay the cost of their road like a regular residential street?

May 19, 2020 6:48 PM Here is a link to Strava's data resource: <https://metro.strava.com/>

May 19, 2020 6:48 PM you mentioned that 92% of the vehicles that turn on to Hamline continue south. How many of those now turn east on Lydia? Traffic on Lydia seems to be elevated and turning left on Lydia at times can take up to 3 complete light changes to get through. How do you weigh the tradeoffs of traffic flow? How do you hear from and consider concerns from residents living on Lydia?

May 19, 2020 6:49 PM With this closure there is a lot more traffic thru Lydia ... How is neighborhood safety being addressed. The speed and noise has tripled

May 19, 2020 6:49 PM Since we are all taxpayers and if this is so important, the democratic thing to is put it to a vote.

May 19, 2020 6:50 PM Plus, the light at Snelling and Lydia can take 5 plus minutes at rush hour to do a full round. If you have to sit thru it more than once it's frustrating to say the least

May 19, 2020 6:50 PM How are you working with the local colleges who are also affected by this Hamline/Snelling changes?

May 19, 2020 6:52 PM Can the turn not be allowed during rush hour and be controlled by arms similar to HOV lanes on I-394

May 19, 2020 6:53 PM In case people are interested. This is the real decision maker: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_Anderson\\_Kelliher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Anderson_Kelliher)

May 19, 2020 6:53 PM if you are aware of all of these pedestrian concerns at Lydia, why are you adding more traffic to that intersection!!

May 19, 2020 6:54 PM How is the decision that "it may cost too much" made. It seems like proposals that may be different from your proposed are answered as to costly or not practical. Where are you attempting to measure the value to residents who live in the area?

May 19, 2020 6:55 PM huge mistake, it has been nothing but congestion since

May 19, 2020 6:55 PM To me, it doesn't seem like MnDOT is really interested in what the residents say or suggest. This is a project that they are pushing through.

May 19, 2020 6:55 PM Thank you, Marc. The one think I'd like to point out to your remark about the UNW and Bethel pedestrians... don't forget they're also the drivers. Their abilities don't improve with a few ton vehicle that they drive in those crossings.

May 19, 2020 6:55 PM Lydia needs to be a part of the scope of this project as it directly affects the closure of Hamline and Snelling. This affects more kids at bus stops and families in this area making is unsafe.

May 19, 2020 6:56 PM and at Lydia, there are a number of presentations that are given throughout the year which add yet more traffic to the intersection.

May 19, 2020 6:56 PM Completely thought this was temporary

May 19, 2020 6:56 PM how do we file pedestrian incident complaints?

May 19, 2020 6:57 PM maybe no complaints because it was a temporary closure ....so we thought..

May 19, 2020 6:57 PM That's is a good idea. If we are doing this - maybe we need to make sidewalks on Lydia and frankly Hamline to help pedestrians with this.

May 19, 2020 6:57 PM I agree

May 19, 2020 6:58 PM Can you answer the sidewalk question? I think this is important.

May 19, 2020 6:58 PM Yep, it said opening back up in November

May 19, 2020 7:00 PM did everyone leave???

May 19, 2020 7:00 PM Lydia pedestrian traffic does not seem to be considered in this project. The increase in traffic necessitates pedestrian protection on Lydia. Is this being addressed?

May 19, 2020 7:01 PM but there isn't a good alternate way as you are hearing from people

May 19, 2020 7:01 PM you can always call the City of Roseville Public Works Department at 651-792-7004 to file complaints about pedestrian activity. We will make sure it gets to MnDOT, Ramsey County and/or Arden Hills if need be.

May 19, 2020 7:01 PM thank you

May 19, 2020 7:01 PM You can also email [engineering@cityofroseville.com](mailto:engineering@cityofroseville.com)

May 19, 2020 7:01 PM I'm specifically talking about LYDIA east of Snelling

May 19, 2020 7:01 PM Lydia people should be aware that the next action will be a double left turn and an expansion of Lydia. Just wait. That will be coming next.

May 19, 2020 7:02 PM it won't be next....

May 19, 2020 7:02 PM some of this may have been eliminated if MnDOT had been apparent in the first place about closing this roadway. We had to hunt for answers and are still dealing with the withholding of information.

May 19, 2020 7:03 PM Traffic pressure will result in this. In these projects, there are always winners and losers. Hamline Ave north of Josephine Road is a winner, and Lydia Avenue is a loser.

May 19, 2020 7:03 PM While according to your numbers most traffic goes south on Hamline, you are really messing with those that go north on Hamline. Because we are a minority, are we ignored?

May 19, 2020 7:04 PM The question is about how they get out of their neighborhood after the barrier is put in

May 19, 2020 7:04 PM I was the author of that question

May 19, 2020 7:04 PM Melissa, I think your answer missed my point entirely, unfortunately.

May 19, 2020 7:06 PM When you talk about balancing mobility needs with safety is that the mobility of people heading north on Snelling

May 19, 2020 7:07 PM How many miles of divided highway in MN are there with higher median incidents than Snelling Ave that don't have the barriers?

May 19, 2020 7:07 PM There are no alternate routes. Snelling is the only road for them.

May 19, 2020 7:07 PM are you saying it's OK to walk or bike across 4 lanes of Snelling Ave?

May 19, 2020 7:08 PM It's legal. And it's the only way for someone on foot or bike to leave the Glenhill neighborhood.

May 19, 2020 7:08 PM can you say once again where one can go to get a copy of the transcript of this presentation and the questions and answers. Thanks.

May 19, 2020 7:09 PM [mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy51roseville-ardenhills](https://mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy51roseville-ardenhills)

May 19, 2020 7:10 PM thanks

May 19, 2020 7:10 PM Can you please comment on pedestrian safety improvements on Lydia in response to the increase in traffic between Snelling and Hamline

May 19, 2020 7:11 PM commuter traffic through neighborhoods decreases safety for the families that live there

May 19, 2020 7:14 PM I would hope that MnDOT would look at the suggestions from this presentation including signals at Hamline and Snelling.

May 19, 2020 7:15 PM The length of the green light on northbound Snelling Lydia contributes to people making risky left turns at Hamline as well as the speed on Snelling. 55 mph means 60-65 mph. I am one of the 3% turning into autumn grove. In the eleven years I've lived here it appears the length of green on Snelling has increased so cars are already going 60 by the time they reach the green at Lydia.18