

## Meeting Summary

**Public Open House 04/09/2019 – 4:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Richfield Municipal Center**

### **65<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project- Phase 1**

#### **Meeting Purpose**

The intent of this open house was to take feedback obtained from the public at open house #1, present possible corridor improvement tools to address public concerns along the corridor, and solicit feedback from the public regarding the tools and possible improvements. This open house was geared towards understanding what issues and possible improvements along the 65<sup>th</sup> Street corridor are important to the public. Hennepin County was also present at the open house to answer questions and solicit feedback on proposed improvements to Nicollet Avenue.

#### **Meeting Notice**

- Approximately 2,833 invitations were mailed to the property owners in the Richfield area between 35W and Portland Avenue from Hwy 62 to 68<sup>th</sup> Street
- An additional notice was mailed to the neighborhood bound to the east by Nicollet Avenue, south by 65<sup>th</sup> Street, west by the railroad tracks, and north by Crosstown. The purpose of this notice was to solicit feedback from this neighborhood regarding the possibility of reconnecting Pillsbury, Wentworth, and Blaisdell Avenues with two-way traffic to 65<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Posted on the City's website calendar
- Sweet Streets website updated with project information
- Open House "Facebook event" was created on the Sweet Streets page and shared on the City's main Facebook page
- Open House was promoted on the Sweet Streets Facebook page 4x and the City's main Facebook page 3x leading up to the event
- Newspaper ad
- Lawn signs posted along 65<sup>th</sup> Street
- Displayed on the electronic message board outside of City Hall and the Ice Arena
- 1 week online Virtual Open House
- Virtual Open House was promoted on the Sweet Streets Facebook page 2x and the City's main Facebook 2x

#### **Richfield Public Attendees**

Thirty-one (31) residents signed in as attendees at the Open House.

#### **Materials Presented**

The material was displayed in a format that allowed attendees the opportunity to view and visit with project staff at their leisure. Materials included:

- Several boards with information on project overview, goals and objectives, related plans and policies, and community context
- Additional boards discussing tools that could be considered to improve 65<sup>th</sup> Street for residents, pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.
- Hennepin County board summarizing the benefits of a 4-lane to 3-lane road section conversion.
- Two large aerial maps of the corridor, with the opportunity to discuss and provide comments



- Surveys and comment cards to solicit input from participants
- A one-page handout was provided to open house attendees summarizing the project and overall purpose of the open house.

## Public Response

Public input was collected through discussions with staff and through surveys and comment cards. Thirty-Nine (39) written comments or comment forms were received.

Of these, 22 were from comment forms provided at the open house and 3 were from the virtual open house. These forms were specifically configured to solicit feedback. The following summarizes what the form asked, and how the public responded (note, not all questions were responded to on every form):

- Question 1: Have the common themes from Open House #1 been accurately captured:
  - Yes: 11
  - No: 2
  - Not Sure: 7
- Question 2: Do you agree that the problem statement captures the overall concerns of the community:
  - Yes: 11
  - No: 4
  - Not Sure: 7
- Rating of Safety Tools (will tools presented enhance the corridor and improve safety on 65<sup>th</sup> Street and/or Nicollet?)

Tool	65 <sup>th</sup> Street (YES)	65 <sup>th</sup> Street (NO)	Nicollet Ave (YES)	Nicollet Ave (NO)
Bicycle and Ped Facilities	14	4	12	2
On-Street Parking Options	3	18	3	10
Roundabout/Signal Improvements	17	6	NA	NA
Railroad Crossing Options	17	3	NA	NA
Pedestrian Crossing Improvements	19	2	12	1
Improving Neighborhood Access	4*	10	6	6
Lane Configuration (3-lane, 2-lane w/turn, etc)	17	2	11	1
Reducing Conflict Points	11	4	9	2

\*6 also responded as they may be supportive of partial improvements along 65<sup>th</sup> Street

Beyond the above comment form feedback the public provided general comments. The following summarizes the most frequently mentioned themes in the additional public comments collected:

- Opposition to reconnecting local streets to 65<sup>th</sup> Street (18 mentions)
- Improved Pedestrian Facilities (11 mentions)
- Open to partial or full reconnection of local streets to 65<sup>th</sup> Street (6 mentions)
- In favor of Improvements to Nicollet Ave (pedestrian, bicycle, lane configuration) (4 mentions)