



**Northern Rochester Transportation Study
May 19, 2011 Public Informational Meeting
Frequently Asked Questions**

Question: What is the timing of the 65th and 55th Street improvements?

Answer: Construction of the 65th Street Interchange is currently planned for 2012, while the proposed Phase 1 of the 55th Street improvements is currently planned for 2013. Both project schedules are dependent on City funding availability.

Question: How long will the construction of the 65th Street interchange last?

Answer: It is anticipated that the construction of the 65th Street interchange will begin in 2012 and will last one construction season.

Question: When will 65th Street west of the proposed interchange be improved?

Answer: Improvements to widen 65th Street to 4-lanes for a distance of approximately 1,200 feet west of 34th Avenue will be included in the 65th Street interchange project. The City and Cascade Township will be resurfacing 65th Street from west of 34th Avenue to 50th Avenue in 2011. There is no planned schedule for the reconstruction and widening of 65th Street to 50th Avenue.

Question: When will sidewalks and/or trails be added to 65th Street?

Answer: Sidewalks/trails will be added to 65th Street at the same time as the roadway is ultimately reconstructed. There is no planned schedule for the reconstruction and widening of 65th Street to 50th Avenue.

Question: The proposed 65th Street interchange improvements have been on-again/off-again in the recent past, is it really moving forward this time?

Answer: Mn/DOT and the City of Rochester executed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2010 that allows the City to move forward with the design and construction of the 65th Street interchange. The 65th Street interchange project is currently moving forward with the design and environmental documentation currently underway and construction planned for the year 2012.

Question: Was access to Bandel Road from the nearby neighborhoods considered?

Answer: Yes. Traffic patterns along Bandel Road are anticipated to shift with the construction of the 65th Street interchange. Without the 65th Street interchange, existing and future traffic from the development in the vicinity of 65th Street need to use Bandel Road to access TH 52 at 55th Street. With the construction of the 65th Street interchange, much of this traffic will shift away from having to use Bandel Road to gain access to TH 52 at 55th Street and will instead access TH 52 at 65th Street. The net result of this projected shifting traffic patterns is a drop in traffic volumes along Bandel Road with the 65th Street interchange versus without the 65th Street interchange.

Question: Concerned with the proposed 55th Street Phase I improvements forcing more southbound left-turns from Clearwater Road to Chateau Road?

Answer: It is anticipated that the construction of the 65th Street interchange, the future connection of Fairway Drive to 65th Street, as well as the future Members Parkway connection from 55th Street to West Circle Drive will result in a shift in traffic patterns that will likely reduce the future traffic volumes on Chateau Road.

Question: Is there a need for a southbound dual left-turn lane on Chateau Road at 55th Street now and/or in the future?

Answer: Based on a review of the existing and future year 2035 traffic volumes, a southbound dual left-turn lane on Chateau Road at 55th Street is not currently needed and will not likely be needed in the future provided that the traffic signal timing at the intersection is periodically reviewed and optimized as needed to accommodate the existing and future traffic volumes.

Question: Can the proposed conversion of the Clearwater Road from a full-access to a right-in/right-out intersection be delayed until a future phase?

Answer: No, the proposed conversion of the 55th Street/Clearwater Road to a right-in/right-out intersection is needed in the earlier phases in order to improve the current and future traffic operations along 55th Street between the east and west TH 52 / 55th Street interchange frontage road intersections.

Question: What is the proposed traffic control at the future 55th Street/Clearwater Road intersection?

Answer: The 55th Street/Clearwater Road intersection will continue to be controlled by a traffic signal; however, access to Clearwater Road to the north of 55th Street will be limited to right-in/right-out as part of the proposed Phase 1 55th Street improvements.

Question: Why hasn't a decision been made between an intersection and roundabout for the east frontage road relocation?

Answer: An Intersection Control Evaluation (or ICE report) will be completed as part of the final design of the Phase 2 improvements in order to determine the recommended traffic control at the 55th Street/East Frontage Road intersection.

Question: Issues with car headlights shining into homes along new east frontage road and how will it be mitigated?

Answer: As part of the final design of the Phase 2 improvements of 55th Street, a review of the roadway alignment and grades will be completed and landscaping or other screening will be considered to minimize impacts of the realigned East Frontage Road.

Question: Will noise abatement at townhomes be studied?

Answer: A noise analysis will be conducted as part of the future environmental documentation that will be completed as part of the future Phase 2 improvements of 55th Street.

Question: What are the plans for the houses along the north side of 55th Street and what is timing of Phase 4?

Answer: The proposed Phase 4 55th Street improvements are anticipated to stay within the existing right-of-way. A noise analysis will be conducted as part of the future environmental documentation that will be completed as part of the future 55th Street improvements.

Question: How far north will the future 50th Avenue go?

Answer: Currently, 50th Avenue is shown in the Rochester Olmsted Council of Governments (ROCOG) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan to ultimately be extended to 85th Street.

Question: When will the Members parkway connection to 55th Street be built?

Answer: The Members Parkway connection to 55th Street is currently not included in the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Question: Who should I contact if I have further questions about the project?

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