

Hodgson Road Reconstruction

📍 Gramsie Road/Rice Street to Bridge Street

Response to Comments | June – July 2022

In June 2022, Ramsey County presented and collected community feedback on the revised proposed design layout for Hodgson Road between Gramsie Road/Rice Street and Highway 96.



11

Emails



63

Interactive map
comments



89

Face-to-face
interactions

We asked the community to provide feedback on the revised proposed design layout. The following are common comments/questions we heard from the community and responses to these comments/questions.

Topic	Comments/Suggestions	Responses
Roundabout	Are roundabouts safer for people walking and biking compared to a traditional intersection?	<p>Studies show roundabouts are safer for people walking and reduce crashes: dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/safety/docs/roundaboutsafetyaddendum.pdf</p> <p>Roundabouts slow traffic down to a speed (about 15 mph) that is associated with better yielding rates, reduced vehicle stopping distance and lower risk of collision injury or fatality. The slower traffic speed also makes it easier for people who are walking to cross. In a roundabout, people walking only have to watch for one direction of oncoming traffic at a time. They can cross each lane of traffic (about 16-18 feet wide), one at a time, with a refuge space in between. Presently, pedestrians have to cross up to 80 feet of roadway at the signal (the equivalent of 6 lanes).</p> <p>Also in roundabouts, people walking are not at risk from drivers who run red lights or make right turns.</p> <p>Bicyclists can ride through the roundabout with the vehicles or they may get off their bike and walk.</p>
	Will the roundabout be two lanes or one?	The roundabout will be a single lane roundabout.

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Trail and sidewalk	Why add a trail and sidewalk on Hodgson Road between Gramsie Road/Rice Street and Bridge Street?	The trail and sidewalk make it safer for people to walk and bike. Adding a trail on Hodgson Road also improves trail connections in the area.
	Will I be losing property for the trail and sidewalk?	The design team has worked hard to minimize the impact on private properties. By narrowing the road, trail, and sidewalk, the majority of changes are in the existing right-of-way. We will work with property owners on an individual basis to help address any impacts.
	Why a trail on the west side and a sidewalk on the east side of Hodgson Road	This design matches the area's trail system, as there is already a trail on the west side of Hodgson Road to the north. If a future trail is added on Rice Street to the south, it would also likely be on the west side.
	Are there plans to stripe the trail and provide signage?	At present, we do not plan to sign or stripe the trail.
	Will there be an adequate buffer between the trail/sidewalk and the road?	Yes, there will be a 5-foot boulevard between the trail/sidewalk and the road.
	Will plow the snow from the sidewalks and trails?	Along Hodgson Road and County Road F, the city of Shoreview will plow the snow from the trails and sidewalks. Along Rice Street, the city of Vadnais Heights will plow the snow from the trail.
4-to-3 lane conversion	Why go from four lanes to three with a center left-turn lane?	4-to-3 lane conversions reduce vehicle speed, create safer street crossings, and improve the flow of traffic through the neighborhood. Having the center left-turn lane will help make left-turns safer and prevent other drivers from waiting. The center left turn lane also provides the opportunity to introduce pedestrian refuge islands for pedestrians wanting to cross Hodgson Road.
	How will the center lane be monitored to prevent drivers from using it as a passing lane?	There will be several pedestrian islands constructed in the middle lane that will prevent drivers from using the center lane for anything other than turning left.

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Traffic	Will the speed limit be reduced?	The County is designing the roadway for 40 mph. The county will need to have the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) conduct a speed study after the project is complete. MnDOT will tell the County what speed limit the roadway should have.
	What other traffic calming measures are being considered on Hodgson Road between Gramsie Road/Rice Street and Bridge Street?	The traffic lanes will be narrower – with 11 foot wide lanes instead of the 12 foot wide lanes that are used on highways. The narrower lane widths, in addition to narrow shoulders and curb and gutters should make it more uncomfortable for drivers to go fast.
Safety and improvements for walking and biking	Is there an opportunity to add additional refuges or flashing signal crossings for people walking on Hodgson Road between Gramsie Road and Snail Lake Road?	At the present, there are two pedestrian refuge islands planned for the project. One of the crossings will be near County Road F and the other crossing will be between Lilac Lane and Dennison Avenue.
Landscaping and Streetscaping	Will trees need to be removed during the reconstruction?	The design team has worked hard to minimize the impact on private properties. By narrowing the road, trail, and sidewalk, the majority of changes are in the existing right-of-way. Some trees will be removed. Any impacts have been minimized from past designs. We will work with property owners on an individual basis to help address any impacts.
	Will streetlights be added as part of the redesign?	Streetlights will be added near the roundabout. Intersection lights will be maintained. No other lights are anticipated.
	Who is responsible for maintaining the boulevard? What type of grass will be planted there?	Residents will be expected to mow the boulevard during the summer. An appropriate turf or sod will be established in the boulevard during the project.
Road Drainage	What improvements are being made to help with storm water drainage?	Currently, water from the road drains over land and into ditches. The project will add storm sewers and ponding to help with drainage and flooding. The County is working with the local watershed district to come up with the best way to drain the project area.

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Other Area Improvements	What is planned at County Road F?	The project no longer includes a cul-de-sac at County Road F and Hodgson Road. The design of County Road F and Hodgson Road now includes a ¾ intersection, as left turns will not be allowed from westbound County Road F to southbound Hodgson Road. There will be a median in Hodgson Road to prevent the left turn from County Road F to southbound Hodgson Road. County Road F will be reconstructed between Hodgson Road and Rice Street and will include a sidewalk on the south side.
	Is there a traffic study planned for Snail Lake Boulevard and/or what is being done about the increase in traffic?	A permanent signal system is being constructed with the project. A traffic study was completed that warranted a permanent signal.
	Are there future improvements north of Bridge Street?	Hodgson Road will be milled and overlaid north of Bridge Street. It has more recently been reconstructed and will only need minor resurfacing.

For more information about the project and to view the full engagement summary, visit: ramseycounty.us/HodgsonRoad



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