

Lake Johanna Boulevard Roadway and Trail Design Study

Round 3 Engagement Summary – July/August 2022

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

Ramsey County has completed the third and final round of engagement for the Lake Johanna Boulevard Roadway and Trail Design Study. In this round, the county shared refined trail design concepts and asked the public to provide feedback on them. This document summarizes the feedback received during the third round of engagement from July 7 through August 7, 2022.

ROUND 2 COMMON FEEDBACK THEMES

- General support and excitement for this project; it is a needed safety improvement for the community.
- Support for north/west trail and separation of trail from traffic.
- Support for pedestrian safety improvements and traffic calming measures; desire for additional measures to reduce vehicle speeds.
- Concerns about implementation timeframe, property impacts, vehicle speeds, and safety at roadway crossings.

OPEN HOUSE

On July 7, 2022, Ramsey County hosted an in-person open house at Arden Hills City Hall where project staff gave a presentation followed by question and answer. Around 57 people attended the open house, and 23 comments/questions were submitted. Below are some of the common comments/questions received:

- Need for this project to happen soon.
- Support for the north/west trail as well as off-road aspect – keeps pedestrian and bikers safe.
- Concerns about property impact.
- Concerns about vehicle speeds and proximity to pedestrians – particularly in the narrow, curved stretches of the road.

Round 3 Engagement:

- In-person open house held July 7, 2022 at Arden Hills City Hall
- 14 online survey responses
- 484 open house notices mailed
- 2 email blasts to project distribution list (691 subscribers)
- 11 posts on Ramsey County social media outlets



Figure 1. Attendees ask project staff questions during the open house.

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- Like safety considerations – crosswalks, sidewalks, medians.
- Like the inclusion of Tony Schmidt Park.
- Questions about the following:
 - Property taxes.
 - Parking impacts.
 - Whether Arden Hills is prioritizing this trail project.
 - Solutions in the short term (e.g., rumble strips, visible crosswalks, enforced speeding and parking rules).
 - Stormwater management and preventing erosion of the lakeshore.
 - Tools to help community members support and advance this project.



Figure 2.. Project staff review the trail designs with open house attendees.

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Responses to the two open-ended survey questions are summarized below:

What do you like and dislike about the refined trail design concepts?

- General support for the project and that it addresses some major safety concerns.
- Some mixed feedback about trail location:
 - Some agree that the west/north trail option is the best option.
 - Some prefer for a trail closer to the lake when possible – particularly from Stowe Ave to County Road E.
- Several respondents mentioned that they like the following about the refined trail design:
 - The road narrowing and bump outs as cues for drivers to reduce speeds as well as make pedestrians more visible at crossings.
 - That the shoulders are designed to stop drivers from passing on the shoulder.
 - The boulevard between the trail and the road as a buffer.
 - The inclusion of on-street parking.
 - That the plan uses the existing road width and does not take property from either side.
 - Stormwater considerations.
- Mixed feedback about trail width:
 - Some would like a 10 foot trail width to allow for safe shared use of the trail.

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- Would like a narrower trail along the west side of Lake Johanna Blvd along the lake – less expensive and more feasible with the lack of usable space.
- Concern about speeding – need additional bump outs or traffic calming measures.
- Like the proposed trail connections to Elmer Anderson Trail and other potential trails along County Road D and along Fairview Avenue North into Roseville.
- Concern that private homeowners might be negatively impacted.
- Concern about visibility at the crosswalk between Siems Court and Oak Avenue.
- Need for additional boat parking as well as signage to prevent overflow parking along streets.
- Desire for a crosswalk from County Road E to the beach.

Do you have any additional feedback about the project that you would like to share?

- Appreciation for the community engagement opportunities, transparency in the design process and work that is being done to improve walking and biking.
- Need for safety improvements in the short-term.
- Desire for homeowners to receive information about trail impacts to landscaping and driveways.
- Desire to get the Arden Hills City Council on board with providing funding to Ramsey County.
- Would like more information on funding and timeline of the project.