

## Pennsylvania Avenue Open House #1 Summary

### Promotion

A multi-faceted approach was taken to promote the first open house for the Pennsylvania Avenue project. With assistance from Ramsey County, approximately 840 postcards were sent to the surrounding community. Mt. Airy Townhomes included open house information in their February newsletter, which is delivered to approximately 300 households. On two separate occasions, a team of SRF and KLJ staff knocked on doors reaching 95 homes. In total, 39 interactions were had, and 56 door handers were placed. In addition, a business canvassing effort took place two blocks south and west of the Rice/Pennsylvania intersection where a total of 26 businesses were engaged. Finally, a social media post was distributed through Ramsey County on both Facebook and X.

### Staff and Attendance

Alan Maxwell and Brad Estochen attended the open house on behalf of Ramsey County. Mikaela Ziegler and Marc Valencia of SRF, and Heidi Sedlacek, Angie Bolstad, Paul Glaser and Yunis Adam from KLJ staffed the open house from the consultant team.

The open house was held near the project corridor at the Mount Airy Community Center from 5:30-7:30pm. At the open house, 16 people signed in and 22 total people attended. There was one Karen speaker for whom the presentation was interpreted live.

### Presentation and Q and A

Alan Maxwell and Paul Glaser gave a presentation about the study process and project details. Please see Appendix A for the presentation slides.

A question-and-answer period was held after the presentation. Members of the audience asked a series of questions about the nearby Jackson Street construction that were ultimately answered by Saint Paul staff member Reuben Collins who attended the meeting.

Questions about Pennsylvania Avenue were about project timeline, multi-modal and other transportation possibilities within the existing right of way (ROW), requirements for county roads that would need to be met with the final design and the possibility of sound barriers in the selected alternatives. The project team discussed the timeline for the project as on track to be constructed in 2029, not anticipating any major delays. The project team also noted the existing ROW was quite wide, so there were opportunities for coordination of multi-modal improvements among agencies as appropriate. As Pennsylvania Avenue is a county road, commercial or heavy traffic cannot be restricted. Attendees noted a noise wall would

be a popular idea to reduce the heavy traffic noise of the roadway if traffic could not be restricted, and the project team noted it was a possibility at this stage and encouraged attendees to communicate that desire with the county. Finally, the project team discussed detours, which will be released in detail closer to the start of construction. Please see Appendix B for a complete transcript of the questions and answers.

## Engagement Materials

The open house also included exhibit boards with participatory activities, a roll plot where attendees could leave comments, and comment cards. No comment cards were submitted.

## Exhibit Boards

There were five total boards, three with project information and two participatory boards. Please see Appendix C for the boards.

### *What are your priorities?*

Attendees were asked to vote for their top three priorities.

- ☐ Speed reduction - 4
- ☐ Shared use path – 2
- ☐ Pedestrian activated devices – 2
- ☐ Lane reduction – 1
- ☐ Improved transit access – 1
- ☐ Aesthetic enhancements - 1
- ☐ Curb extensions – 0
- ☐ Dedicated bike facilities – 0

### *Existing Corridor Issues*

Attendees were given a list of identified corridor issues and asked to add any of their own.

- ☐ Vehicle noise
- ☐ Poor pavement needs improvement

## Roll Plot

A roll plot of the project area was made available to participants to leave location specific comments. Please see Appendix D for scan of the roll plot.


Location	Comment
Jackson Street Roundhouse	Left turn lane – RR museum willing to relocate entrance if needed

Jackson Street Roundhouse	Offered to host the next open house at RR museum
Entire corridor	Fast traffic
Entry to Pennsylvania Ave from Jackson Street	Sightlines for this entrance are unsafe, it is hard to see drivers.
Park Street and Capitol Blvd Residential Area	Noise barrier!
Park Street and Capitol Blvd Residential Area	Pedestrian crossing
Pennsylvania Ave and Rice Street	What is ineffective about the pavement/concrete recipe? Will it change/have a better design?
Pennsylvania Ave and Rice Street	Will the met transit 62 and 3 busses continue to use this stop?
Pennsylvania Ave and Empire Dr	Poor lighting, desire for lit trail

## Engagement Themes



Attendees were in favor of improvements to Pennsylvania avenue that will make it more hospitable to people who live around it. The major concern of nearby residents was noise mitigation. There was interest in having new bike or pedestrian trails connect to existing state and city trails. Attendees were apprehensive of the large amount of construction planned for the area but were happy to hear that the county would maintain access to business and residential properties.

## Appendix A: Presentation Slides



### Community Open House #1

**Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction**  
 From Rice Street to Mississippi Street

### INTRODUCTIONS



Alan Maxwell | Project Manager | Alan.Maxwell@co.ramsey.mn.us



Paul Glaser | Consultant Project Manager | Paul.Glaser@kljeng.com

Partner Agencies






**Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction**  
 From Rice Street to Mississippi Street




### ADJACENT PROJECTS

- ① Jackson Street Reconstruction
  - Pennsylvania Ave to University Ave
  - Construction to begin July 2025
- ② Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
  - Project is currently on hold
  - Anticipated Purple Line opening was 2029
- ③ Rice Street Reconstruction
  - Pennsylvania Ave to Wheelock Pkwy
  - Three stage construction schedule
    - Manitoba to Maryland Ave, 2026
    - Pennsylvania Ave Intersection, 2027
    - John Ireland to Pennsylvania, 2027
    - Pennsylvania to Manitoba, 2027
    - Wheelock to CR B, 2028
- ④ Jackson Street Bridge Reconstruction
  - Pennsylvania Ave to Ackler Street
  - Construction anticipated in 2028
- ⑤ Rice Street Studies, Ongoing




**Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction**  
 From Rice Street to Mississippi Street




### PROJECT LOCATION



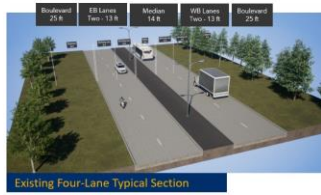
**Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction**  
 From Rice Street to Mississippi Street

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Project Background

- Planned 2028 Reconstruction.
- Jackson Street Interchange was originally designed as a truck bypass.
- Limited sidewalks and multimodal facilities.
- Priority route for multimodal transportation.
- Current four-lane roadway may not be needed for capacity.



Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction  
From Rice Street to Mississippi Street



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Project Purpose

- Study existing conditions
- Engage the community
- Develop a future vision
- Identify a preferred design layout

### Project Goals

- Balance Transportation modes
- Prioritize safety, accessibility and convenience
- Promote transportation equity



Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction  
From Rice Street to Mississippi Street



## STAY INVOLVED

### On-Line Opportunities

-  **RamseyCounty.us/PennsylvaniaAve**
  - Find project information
  - Sign up for updates via email
  - Provide input on the comment map
  - Share ideas through the feedback form
-  **Connect with Ramsey County on Facebook**  
RamseyCountyMinnesota
-  **Contact Us**  
Alan Maxwell | Project Manager |  
Alan.Maxwell@co.ramsey.mn.us

### In Person Opportunities

- Second round of community engagement this summer.
- Future events will be communicated through social media and the project website.
- Visit the website for updates.



Project Website  
QR Code

Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction  
From Rice Street to Mississippi Street



## Thank you for listening!



Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction  
From Rice Street to Mississippi Street



Question: What happened to the planned pierce butler extension?

Answer: Alan will follow up

Question: Is there any way this could get cancelled or heavily delayed?

Answer: We are currently on track to hit 2028 and we can't have all these streets closed at the same time, the move of 2029 seems likely from a construction standpoint, but I don't see this being delayed much farther

Question: What are the requirements for county roads in terms of lane widths etc.? Does PA meet current requirements with ROW? Would it have to be widened?

Answer: PA Ave has more ROW than most other country roads, we have plenty of roads. Sometimes land widths need to be about 11 feet and a 30-foot clear zone from the edge of a roadway unless there is a curb and gutter. There are many stipulations, it was originally designed for I-94, but it doesn't need to do that now, so we do have the ability to reduce it, but there are many ways to do that. We are not looking at any options that will add lanes or widen the roadway. We have plenty of options in terms of trails, bike paths etc.

Question: What about commercial traffic? Can it be rerouted or restricted?

Answer: We cannot restrict traffic on country road, we don't have that power. We can do other things to reduce noises like narrow the roadway or change the pavement.

Question: What about a noise barrier?

Answer: We could look into that

Question: Would we need a petition for a noise barrier?

Answer: It could be helpful. Safety will supersede noise, but it's not out of the question.

Question: Would we tie into the state bicycle plan? Connect to other trails?

Answer: This route is part of Ramsey County's plan and Saint Paul's bike plan, our design would definitely take into account and coordinate.

Question: What are the detours?

Answer: We will have a detour plan for when construction happens, we always try to direct people to other county roads. Ultimately people will go where they want. Details of this are usually determined after alternatives. Contractors are required to maintain access to properties.

## Appendix C: Exhibit Boards

### Pennsylvania Avenue Reconstruction

From Rice Street to Mississippi Street





**Welcome! Bienvenidos! Zoo siab tos txais! Soo dhaweyn! ကိုဆိုပါတယ်**

#### CONNECT WITH US ONLINE



- Find project information
- Sign up for updates via email
- Provide input on the comment map
- Share ideas through the feedback form

**RamseyCounty.us/PennsylvaniaAve**



Connect with Ramsey County on Facebook  
RamseyCountyMinnesota

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Second round of community engagement will be this summer.

Future events will be communicated through social media and the project website.

#### CONTACT US

Alan Maxwell  
Project Manager  
Alan.Maxwell@co.ramsey.mn.us

### ADJACENT PROJECTS

Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction




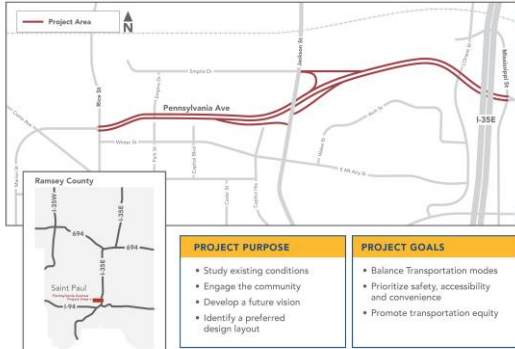


- 1 Jackson Street Reconstruction**
  - Pennsylvania Ave to University Ave
  - Construction to begin July 2025
- 2 Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**
  - Project is currently on hold
  - Anticipated Purple Line opening was 2029
- 3 Rice Street Reconstruction**
  - Pennsylvania Ave to Wheelock Pkwy
  - Three stage construction schedule
    - Manitoba to Maryland Ave, 2026
    - Pennsylvania Ave intersection, 2026
    - John Ireland to Pennsylvania, 2027
    - Pennsylvania to Manitoba, 2027
    - Wheelock to CR B, 2028
- 4 Jackson Street Bridge Reconstruction**
  - Pennsylvania Ave to Acker Street
  - Construction anticipated in 2028
- 5 Rice Street Studies Ongoing**

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction





#### PROJECT PURPOSE

- Study existing conditions
- Engage the community
- Develop a future vision
- Identify a preferred design layout

#### PROJECT GOALS

- Balance Transportation modes
- Prioritize safety, accessibility and convenience
- Promote transportation equity

#### TIMELINE

**WINTER/SPRING 2025**

- Begin community engagement and encourage public input
- Analyze existing traffic conditions
- Begin preliminary concept development

**SUMMER 2025**

- Continue connecting with the community on preliminary concepts
- Alternative analysis and evaluation

**FALL 2025/WINTER 2026**

- Select preferred alternative
- Present alternative to community for input

**SPRING 2026**

- Finalize preferred alternative


**2028 or 2029**

- Planned construction





## EXISTING CORRIDOR ISSUES


Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction





ISSUES ALREADY IDENTIFIED


 Lack of continuous sidewalks


 No bicycle facilities


 Poor pavement condition

 Limited public transit accessibility

 Speeding

 Current freeway-like design


 Limited pedestrian crossing opportunities

 Crash history

SHARE YOUR CONCERNS


## INFRASTRUCTURE

Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction




Pennsylvania Ave will need to incorporate multiple modes of transportation.  
Vote for your top 3 infrastructure priorities.


CURB EXTENSIONS




PEDESTRIAN ACTIVATED DEVICES




LANE REDUCTION




SPEED REDUCTION




IMPROVED TRANSIT ACCESS




DEDICATED BICYCLE FACILITIES



SHARED USE PATH



AESTHETIC ENHANCEMENTS





## Appendix D: Roll Plot Map

