

Vadnais Boulevard Roadway and Trail Design Study

Round 3 Engagement Summary – June/July 2022

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

Ramsey County has completed the third and final round of engagement for the Vadnais 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 June 30 through July 31, 2022.

ROUND 2 COMMON FEEDBACK THEMES

- General support and excitement for this project; it is a needed safety improvement for the community.
- Support for the trail on the north side of the roadway because it's lakeside, crosses fewer intersections, and better connects with existing trails.
- Desire for a complete loop around the lake (e.g., extend trail on Edgerton Street).
- Concerns about trail funding, implementation timeframe, environmental impact and safety at roadway crossings.

OPEN HOUSE

On June 30, 2022, Ramsey County hosted an in-person open house where project staff gave a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. Around 30 people attended the open house, and 10 comments/questions were submitted. Below are some of the common comments/questions received:

- Overall appreciation for this trail design study and excitement for the project.
- Strong support for the trail on the north side – safer and more connected to nature
- Concern about project funding and the implementation timeframe, would like the project to be implemented as soon as possible.
- Concern about tree loss, added traffic congestion and difficulty enter/existing driveways on Vadnais Boulevard.

Round 3 Engagement:

- In-person open house held June 30, 2022 at Vadnais Heights City Hall
- 11 online survey responses
- 494 open house notices mailed
- Two email blasts to project distribution list (749 subscribers)
- 10 posts on Ramsey County social media outlets



Figure 1. Project staff review the trail designs with open house attendees.

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- Support for the trail being separated from traffic.
- Need for safe pedestrian crossings.
- Desire for trail extension from Vadnais Boulevard along Edgerton Street.

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

There was general excitement and support for this project and the refined trail design concepts. More specific responses to the two open-ended survey questions are summarized below:

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

- Support for the trail on the north side of the road – better connection to the lake and nature as well as fewer roadway crossings.
- Appreciation for the buffers, greenery and opportunity to depart from the road into the wooded areas.
- Desire for a more meandering trail.
- Desire for trail to be extended on Edgerton Street to make a complete loop.
- Support for traffic calming measures and the trail's separation from vehicle traffic.
- Strong support for the idea of planned pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure all the way to the school from Centerville Road.
- Concern about lack of shoulder space on the roadway for fast bike travel – particularly at the Twin Lakes Boulevard intersection.
- Some concern with the north side trail east of Edgerton Road – may create conflicts with the brewery entrances.
- Supportive of fixing the skew at Edgerton, but mixed feedback about a roundabout there.

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

- Phase II should consider connecting the trail with the existing trail on the northeast side of the lake to create a full loop.
- Consider other traffic calming measures.
- Would like this project to be completed as soon as possible.
- Desire for a bike crossing button and blinking light at Vadnais Lake Trail crossing.
- Desire to see the Trout Brook Trail extended to improve connectivity.
- Mixed feedback about roundabout at the Edgerton Street intersection.