



**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Public Works: 4058 St. Francis Blvd NW  
**Monday, May 09, 2022 at 5:30 PM**

---

**AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. AGENDA ITEMS**

- [A.](#) Hwy 47 Project Update
- [B.](#) Staffing and Hiring Discussion

- 4. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Joe Muehlbauer will attend via Zoom from: 13971 Celebrate Life Way, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89825991616?pwd=aWQ3U0hITXRQajlMUTl5NzRkcFFRQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 2599 1616

Passcode: frG0Zq

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89825991616#,,,,\*863010# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89825991616#,,,,\*863010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 898 2599 1616

Passcode: 863010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89825991616?pwd=aWQ3U0hITXRQajlMUTl5NzRkcFFRQT09>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89825991616?pwd=aWQ3U0hITXRQajlMUTl5NzRkcFFRQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 2599 1616

Passcode: frG0Zq

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89825991616#,,,,\*863010# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89825991616#,,,,\*863010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 898 2599 1616

Passcode: 863010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89825991616?pwd=aWQ3U0hITXRQajlMUTl5NzRkcFFRQT09>



## WORK SESSION AGENDA REPORT

---

**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Hwy 47 Project Update  
**DATE:** 05-09-2022

---

### **OVERVIEW:**

Council will meet with WSB and MnDOT to discuss the Hwy 47 corridor as it relates to community input and efforts, updated safety and traffic information and moving forward.

Attachments: Presentation Slides

# St Francis City Council – Work Session

TH 47 in St. Francis  
May 9, 2022

5/5/2022

1

## Agenda

### Agenda

1. Project/study update
2. Schedule
3. Previous efforts
4. Current updates – traffic, safety
5. Stakeholder meetings
6. Stakeholder surveys
7. Moving forward
8. Next steps

5/5/2022

2

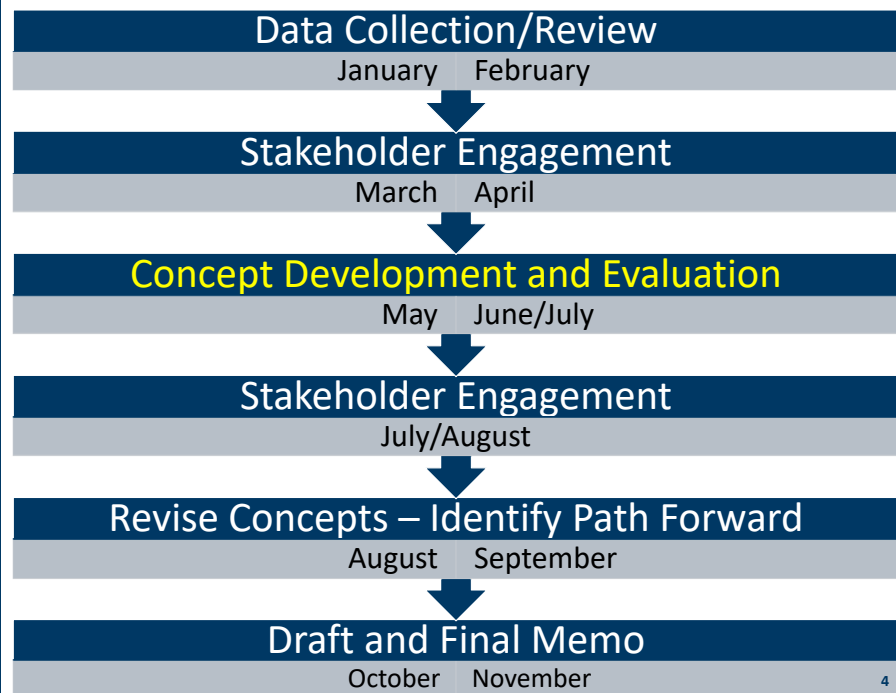
## Study/Project Update

- MnDOT and city agreed to revisit the study to evaluate current conditions and to identify a way forward
- Study will reevaluate 2 of the previous concepts and develop 2 new concepts

5/5/2022

3

## Schedule



5/5/2022

4

## Previous Efforts -

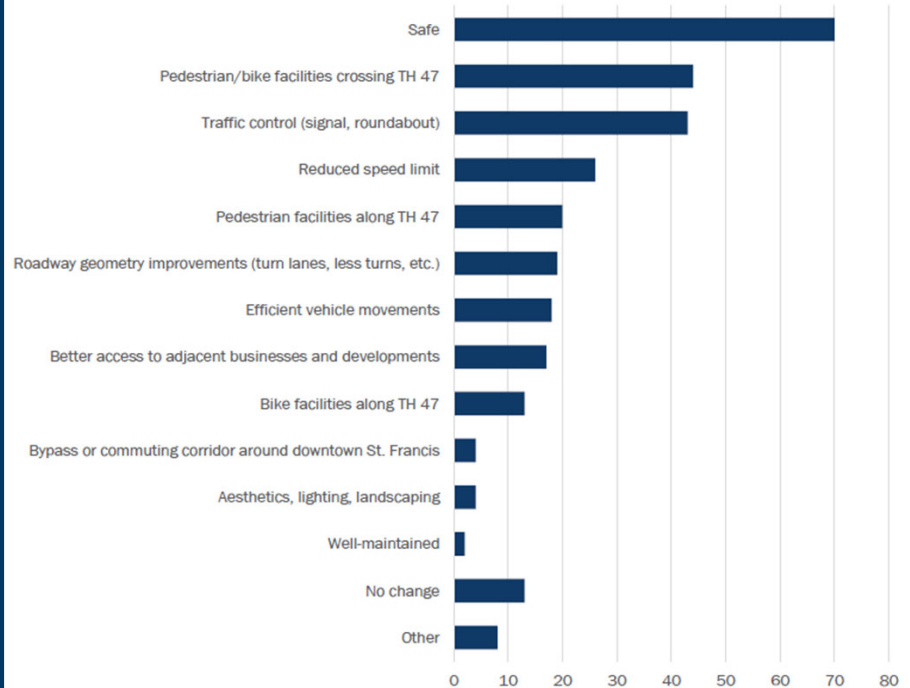
### Previous Efforts

- Establishing corridor vision and needs
- Identifying alternatives to address needs and vision
- Comments and areas of consent

5/5/2022

5

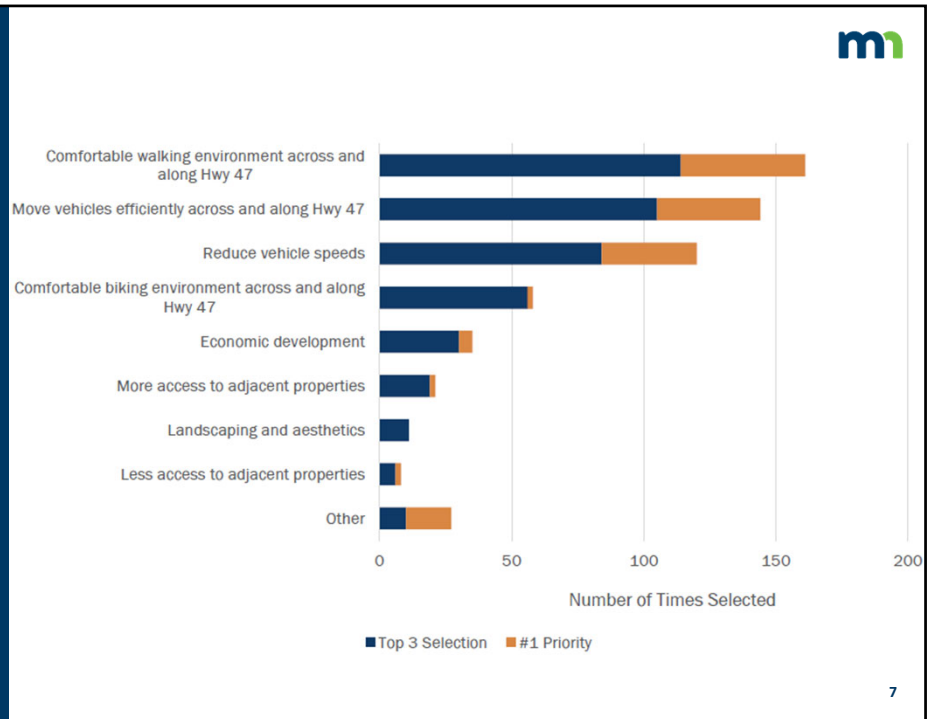
## Previous Efforts - Vision



5/5/2022

## Previous Efforts - Priorities

5/5/2022



7

## Previous Efforts - Priorities

5/5/2022

### What we heard

#### Top Priorities:

- Safety
- Pedestrian/bicycles crossing Hwy 47
- Intersection Controls
- Reduced Speeds

#### Open House #1

- April 23, 2019 Listening Session
- Online Survey

#### Business Open House

- May 22, 2019
- Met with businesses

#### Community Events

- Bike Rodeo
- Pioneer Days
- School Engagement
- Senior Lunch



HWY 47 ST. FRANCIS PLANNING STUDY

m1 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

8

## Previous Efforts - Needs

5/5/2022

### Needs

- Pedestrians and bicyclists have a difficult time crossing Highway 47
- Pavement condition is poor
- History of serious injury and fatal crashes at intersection along the roadway
- Design and function of the roadway does not support surrounding land use
- Drivers have a difficult time turning onto and from Highway 47



**m** DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

9

## Previous Efforts – Concept Development

5/5/2022

### Concept Development

- Several ideas generated based on goals of improving safety, slowing traffic, serving existing land uses along the corridor
- All ideas included reducing the number of travel lanes and constructing a center median
- 4 primary concepts developed
  - Roundabouts
  - Reduced conflict intersections
  - Side street stops
  - Pedestrian grade separation

**m**

10

## Previous Efforts – Concept Development

### Narrow Roadway

- Studies show traffic is slowed by narrowing of roadway
- 4-lanes are not needed
- Eliminates passing traffic
- Shorter crossing distance for pedestrians/bicyclists
- Increases safety for all users



Image Source: Google Earth, E 76<sup>th</sup> Street in Richfield, MN



HWY 47 ST. FRANCIS PLANNING STUDY

mn DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

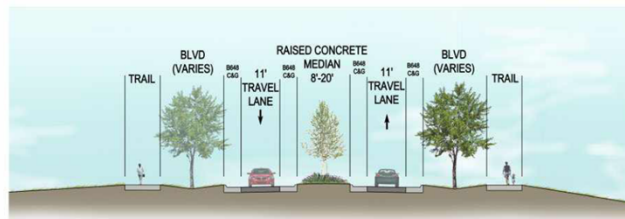
5/5/2022

11

## Previous Efforts – Concept Development

### Raised Median

- Slows traffic
- Creates the feel of an urban roadway
- Allows for landscaping in the median
- Opportunity for streetscaping



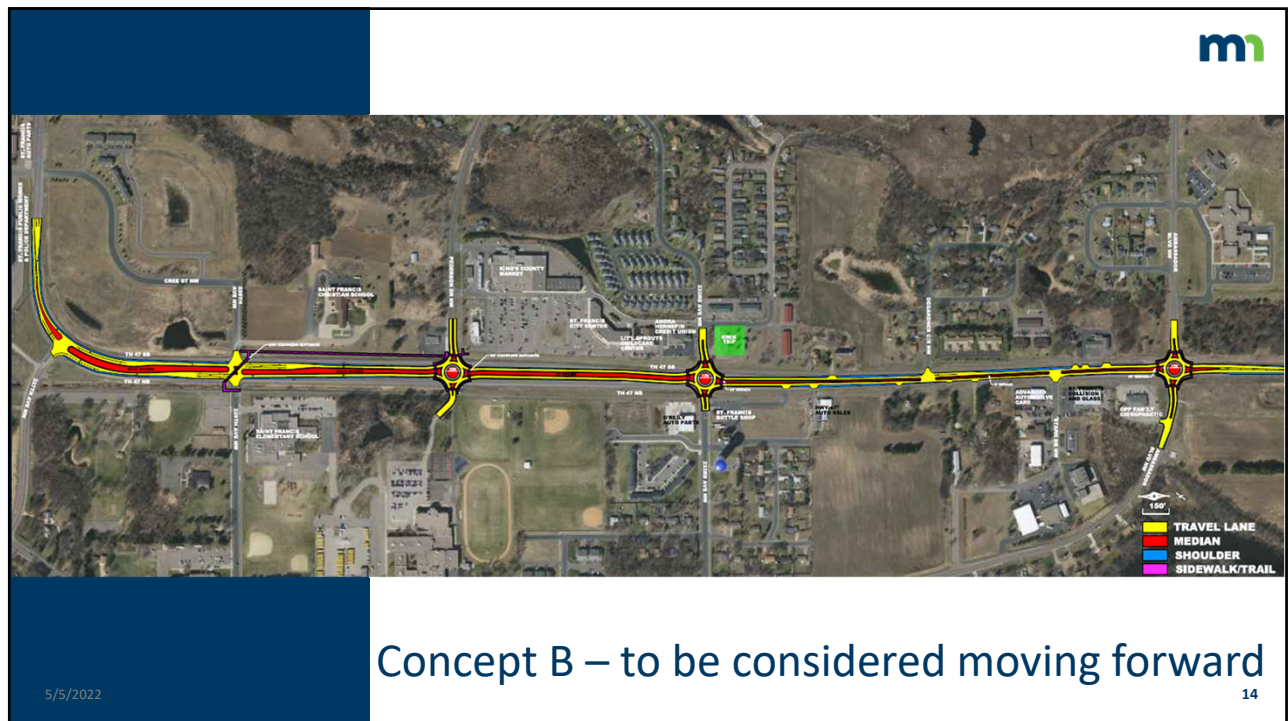
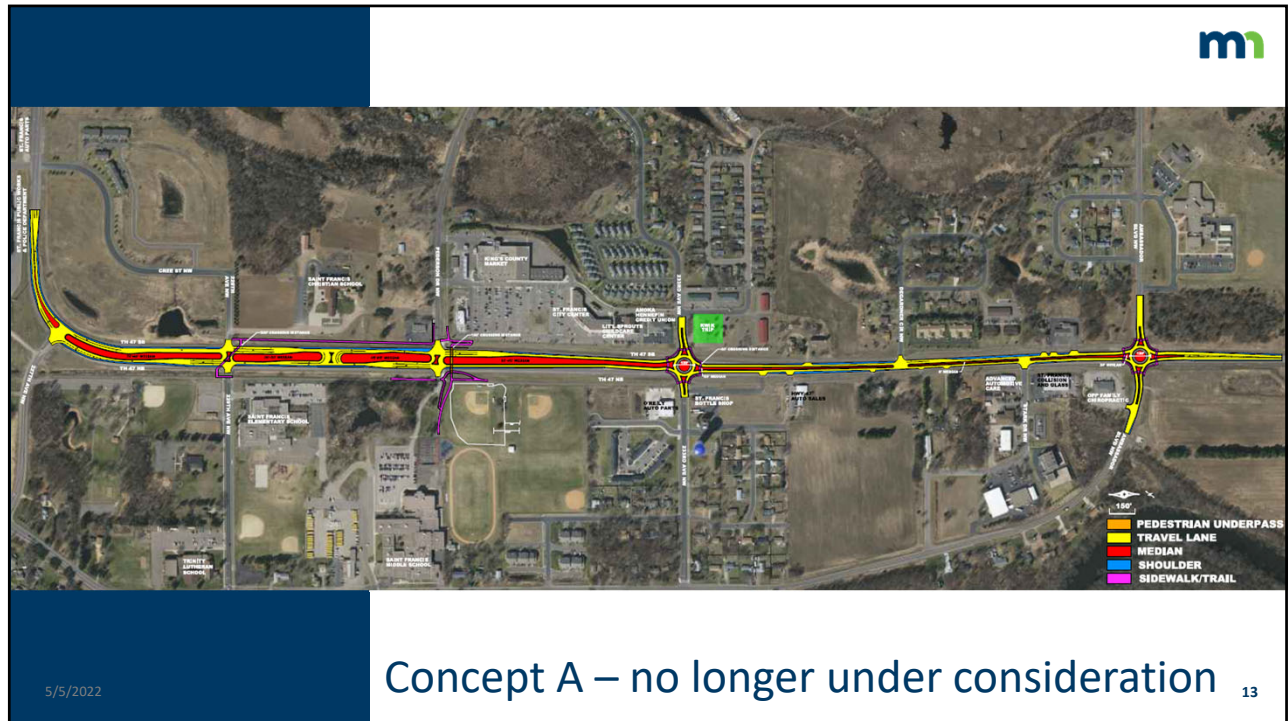
HWY 47 ST. FRANCIS PLANNING STUDY

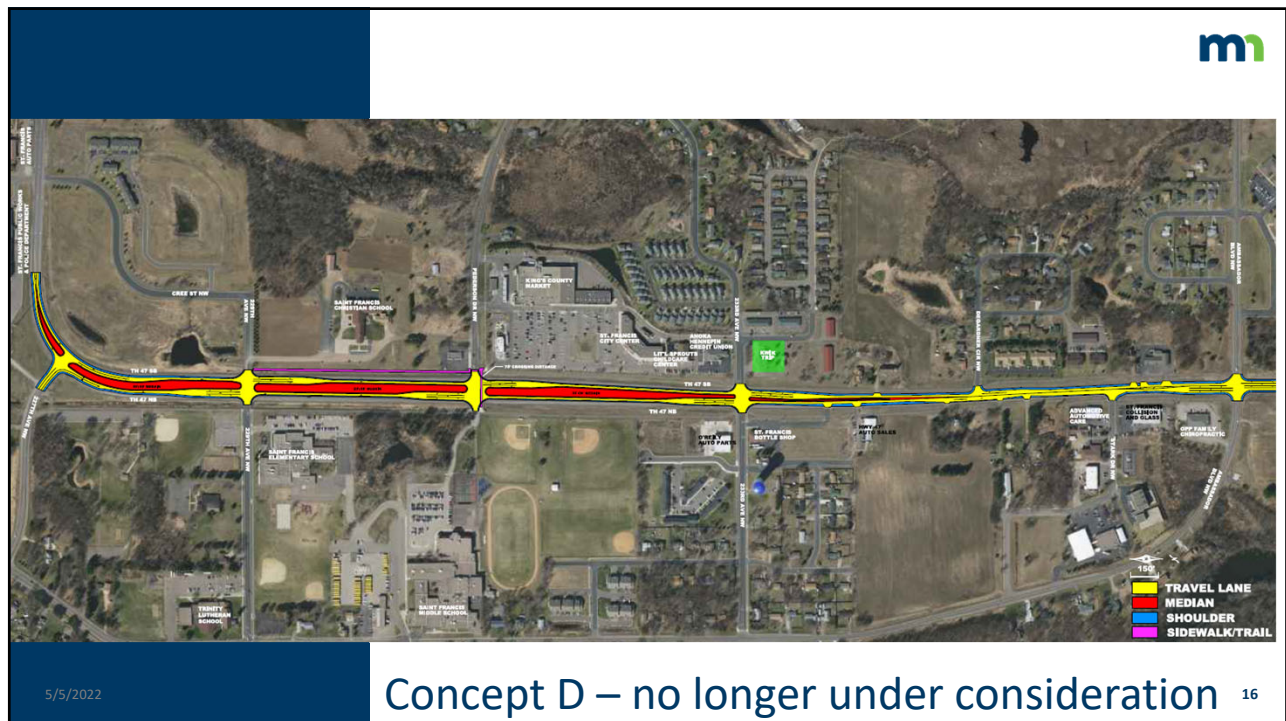
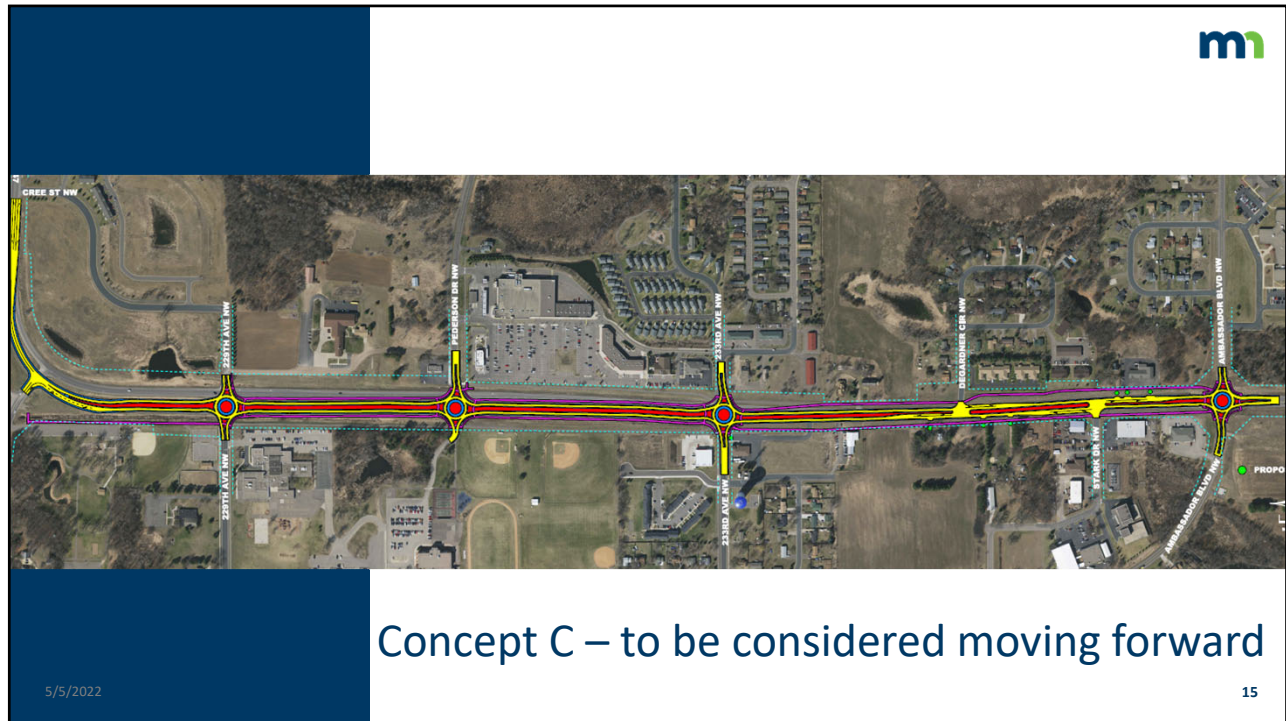
mn DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

5/5/2022

12









## Previous Efforts – General Comments and Areas of Consent

5/5/2022



- Dislike of reduced conflict intersections
- Dislike having all side street stops
- Support for reducing travel lanes
- Support for temporary signal at Pederson
- Mix of support and concern about pedestrian/bicycle grade separation
- Mix of support and concern about roundabouts
- Interest in traffic signals

17

## Current Updates

5/5/2022



### Traffic and Safety

18

## Current Updates - Traffic

5/5/2022



### Traffic

- MnDOT reviewed future traffic conditions and analysis based upon updates to proposed land uses. Traffic experts believe that the previous future traffic volumes and conditions can be used for the update.

19

## Current Updates - Safety

5/5/2022



### Safety

- Crash data was reviewed and updated. New data from October 2016 – September 2021
- 37 crashes at intersections between Cree St and Ambassador Blvd
- Most (75 percent) were angle or left-turn crashes
- 1 pedestrian crash at Pederson Dr

20

## Current Updates - Safety

5/5/2022

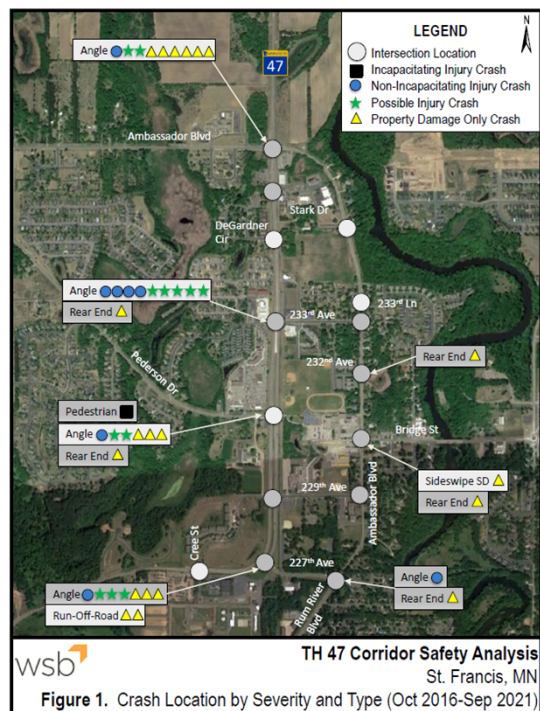
### Safety

- Crash rates are above the statewide average at Ambassador and 227th
- The severity rate is above the critical rate at 233rd - indicates crashes are more severe than would be expected
- Compared to previous time period, the severity of crashes has improved. Number of crashes is about the same.

21

## Current Update - Safety

5/5/2022



22

## Stakeholder Meetings

### Stakeholder Meetings – April 6, 2022



5/5/2022

23

## Check-In Meeting Overview

### Overview

- Meetings conducted at city of St. Francis Public Works
- Meetings scheduled for
  - 8:00 am
  - 9:00 am
  - 1:00 pm
  - 2:00 pm
  - 3:00 pm
- Stakeholder representatives were present for all meetings with the exception of the 9:00 am.



5/5/2022

24

## Check-In Meeting Overview

5/5/2022



### Overview

- Stakeholder invitees were contacted prior to sending out information to identify a contact name and to verify e-mail addresses. The pharmacy indicated that they wanted a mailed invitation.
- Invitees were sent an e-mail invitation to attend the meetings and were sent a reminder in advance of the RSVP deadline. They were also contacted following the RSVP deadline to encourage any last registrations

25

## Check-In Meeting Overview

5/5/2022



### Overview

- Each meeting began with introductions and a presentation outlining purpose of the meeting, highlighting where the study had progressed to before the pause, and how the partners intended to move forward – including input from stakeholders
- Invitees were told they would be receiving a survey as a follow-up to the meeting and that their input would be shared with MnDOT and the city council

26

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights

- Concern about maintaining direct access to TH 47 – want to make sure a median will not block access
- Concern about right of way impacts if a median is constructed

27

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights

- Roundabouts by the high school work better than expected
- Roundabouts by high school are ok. People still drive too fast and it is not always easy to see students. Like the roundabout on Viking and Twin Lakes Road
- Concern about younger kids and roundabouts – they understand traffic signals and drivers pay more attention. Concern is inattentive drivers and kids
- A RRFB at roundabouts would help this issue

28



## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights

- Options on the table (concepts B and C) are generally good
- Concern about too many roundabouts in a row – will slow it down too much, and concern that drivers will avoid the area
- Roundabouts on the ends could be good – get people to slow down

29

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights - Continued

- Like the traffic signal at Pederson – good for kids
- Pederson signal creates gaps at other intersections
- Would like a dedicated right-turn lane on the Pederson approach. People sort of create one to bypass left turning and straight ahead traffic. Creates some queueing.

30

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights - Continued

- Kids seem to follow the walk/don't walk on the traffic signal
- Prefer signals over roundabouts – causes issues for emergency responders
  - Patients in ambulance
  - Navigating large vehicles
  - Blocking traffic
- Only concern at signal is flashing yellow – people do not understand it

31

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights - Continued

- Like the right-turn lane into County Market
- Hard to turn into Mansetti's during peak periods
- Like the idea of trails on both sides of the corridor – then you know where pedestrians and bicycles will generally be – right now they can be anywhere
- Would like to see more lighting on the corridor – more than just intersections

32

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights – Continued

- Safety at 233rd - multiple crashes recently
- Safety on the curve near 227th
- People are using Cree St. NW and the truck circulation behind the mall area to get to the signal at Pederson.
- Similar issue is happening from traffic on Cree St and development off of 229th Ave (west side of the corridor) using Patriot Parkway (unpaved) to get to the signal at Pederson.

33

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights – Continued

- Southbound traffic seems to speed through the study area, more so than northbound traffic, at least until you get near Ambassador
- Speed is an issue – vehicles trying to get around slower moving cars – so lane reduction is good
- Concern about additional development near Ambassador – will increase traffic

34

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights – Continued

- School needs a better circulation pattern or another access to the site
- School is waiting on its plans to see what happens on TH 47 – no funding in place right now to make improvements
- Access to the middle school for busses is via Ambassador – parents are not allowed to use Ambassador access

35

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights – Continued

- At the middle school, traffic stacks up on TH 47 or the shoulder (this does not match field observations by the WSB team and general agreement from the St. Francis police department)
- Would be nice to have a separate lane into the middle school from Hwy 47 (note – there is a dedicated turn lane)
- Did not notice stacking on TH 47 by middle school as a regular occurrence – on occasion – more of an issue by elementary school

36

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights – Continued

- Concern about lockdown events and planning for parental traffic into the area – recognize not a regular occurrence, but should be considered
- Occasionally people will park on the shoulder of TH 47 to watch baseball games
- Need to think about foul balls (from ball field) as part of the design

37

## Check-In Meeting Highlights

5/5/2022



### Summary Highlights – Continued

- Would it make sense to have a three-lane between Gardner and Stark for business access?
- Did not care for survey question regarding traffic control – too general, should be specific because there are different opinions on roundabouts and traffic signals

38

## Survey

### Survey Information – April 2022



5/5/2022

39

## Survey Overview

### Survey Overview

- Stakeholder invitees were invited to participate in the survey during the check-in meetings.
- Following the check-in meetings, all stakeholder invitees were asked to complete a follow-up survey
- Respondents were given 2 weeks to complete the survey



5/5/2022

40

## Survey Overview

5/5/2022



### Survey Overview

- Reminders to complete the survey were sent out approximately a week and a half after released and the following Monday after the survey was supposed to be closed to gain additional responses
- Survey was intended to confirm study area needs and concerns, to identify any new concerns and needs, and to gather input on what, if any, elements of existing concepts participants liked or disliked

41

## Survey Responses

5/5/2022



### Response Overview

- There were 8 surveys completed. Survey respondents generally represented those that had attended the stakeholder meetings

42

## Survey Responses

5/5/2022



### Responses

- General consent around identified needs
- General agreement that reducing travel lanes would provide a benefit
- Comments on roundabouts and traffic signal at Pederson are reflective of the focus group meetings
- One respondent with a stronger desire for a pedestrian grade separation

43

## Survey Responses

5/5/2022



### Responses Continued

- Recognition that the school needs to coordinate efforts with improvements on TH 47, but funding is an issue
- General consent that a roundabout at Ambassador would be good; mixed at other locations

44



## Moving Forward

5/5/2022



- Concepts B and C from previous efforts will be reconsidered
- 2 new concepts will be developed jointly between the city and MnDOT with input from stakeholder groups
- Opportunity in the future to identify aesthetic treatments

45

## Moving Forward – New Concepts

5/5/2022



### Joint Effort

- Identify ideas from stakeholders
- Workshop with agencies to identify and develop 2 new concepts
- Discuss ideas that merit further development and refinement
- Identify preliminary concepts
- Collect feedback and refine

46



## Next Steps

- Next Steps
  - Concept development – charette activity



## WORK SESSION AGENDA REPORT

---

**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Staffing and Hiring Discussion  
**DATE:** 05-09-2022

---

### **OVERVIEW:**

First Interviews have been held for filling the PW Director position. Council to determine next step and dates for second interview

Attachments: none