

**West 70th Street/Cornelia Area Traffic Study
Study Advisory Committee**

Meeting #3 – August 9, 2007, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees: Les Wanninger, Wayne Houle, Jack Sullivan, Marie Cote, Beth Bartz, Warren Plante, Marie Thorpe, Steve Brown, Peter Warner, Paul Beverage, Arnie Perschin, Harold Benson, Tom Foley, Bob Shotwell, Arrie Larsen Manti, Paul Mooty, Dave Hatzung, Jerry Cohen, Dennis Brown, Marc Usem, Debbie Goettel, and Bradley Beard.

1. Introduction – Les Wanninger, ETC Chair

Les started the meeting with a brief discussion of what was planned for the third SAC meeting. He explained that the study has been delayed as analysis of future traffic conditions and development of alternatives is dependent upon the traffic forecasting work being completed as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

2. Recap of Data Collected – Marie Cote, SRF

A recap of the data collected to date was presented using a powerpoint presentation. Key topics reviewed included current traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, and traffic delays.

SAC members asked that they receive more information on the seasonal adjustment factors used to convert traffic counts into Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes.

This information has been posted to the City's website under the Transportation Commission section: <http://www.cityofedina.com/traffic/70thstreetstudy.htm>.

3. Results of Origin-Destination Survey – Marie Cote, SRF

The results of the origin-destination survey conducted during the afternoon peak traffic period on May 16, 2007 were presented using a powerpoint presentation and handouts. This information is posted on the City's website – <http://www.cityofedina.com/traffic/70thstreetstudy.htm>.

A key purpose of the origin-destination study was to identify vehicle trips that could possibly be directed to routes other than 70th Street. The survey indicates that there are a number of Richfield bound trips that could possibly be directed to other routes, including the Crosstown, once construction on the Crosstown Commons is completed and traffic delays are reduced. Other destinations including the area northeast of 70th and France, the area southeast of 70th and France, and Minneapolis, could also be influenced to take other routes.

One SAC member asked if the people going to Richfield were stopping to shop before going home. Survey results indicated that those identifying Richfield as their main destination and were not stopping to shop.

4./5./6. Study Goals/Constraints/Facts/Evaluation Criteria – Beth Bartz, SRF

A handout was prepared for discussion purposes with the group regarding the following:

- Study Goals – goals for potential solutions
- Evaluation Criteria – to be used in the alternatives analysis
- Constraints – what we want to avoid
- Facts – what we must take into account

The study goals and evaluation criteria were developed using the results from the issue prioritization exercise conducted at the first SAC meeting.

It is important to note that an “alternative” is a complete and comprehensive package of improvements/changes to West 70th Street and/or other transportation facilities or surrounding land in Edina which attempts to address a majority of the study goals. It will include a package of elements. (See further discussion below.)

It was emphasized that the future land uses and resulting future traffic volumes used for the West 70th Street Study will come directly from the Comprehensive Planning process. Concerns regarding future land use cannot, and will not, be a topic of discussion in the West 70th Street process. Concerns regarding land use should be raised in the comprehensive plan workshops currently under way. Information can be found on the City’s website.

The SAC asked that a goal to reconnect the residential areas north and south of West 70th Street be added to the list. The neighborhood perceives West 70th Street as a divider and there is a strong desire to recreate the feeling of a single neighborhood.

(A revised version of this handout is attached.)

7. Anticipated Alternatives – Beth Bartz, SRF

A discussion of the process for developing alternatives took place, facilitated by a handout listing potential elements of alternatives that have been raised in conversations to date. (Attached.)

Comments and questions regarding anticipated alternatives included:

- How will the proposed industrial redevelopment to the west affect West 70th Street? The 20-year forecast volumes being developed for West 70th Street will include all redevelopment plans to the west and east, consistent with land use assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan update.
- What is the appropriate role for 66th Street? Consideration of the appropriate route and volumes for this type of roadway will be included in the analysis of the

alternatives. Solutions will attempt to balance out volumes in the study area without overloading particular streets.

- Is a ramp at 66th Street being considered? It is highly unlikely that new ramps at TH 100 will be considered as a solution since there is not the sufficient distance between 66th Street and TH 62 (Crosstown) to fit in new ramps.
- If the state aid designation was eliminated from West 70th Street, would the B Minor Arterial designation be changed? No, the B Minor Arterial designation is based on its function as it provides an important connection between a regional roadway and a major center of retail and employment and is independent of its state aid designation.
- Will one alternative for West 70th Street be a parkway? The consultants encouraged that a range of alternatives be studied. The SAC could chose a “parkway” as an alternative, although “parkway” can mean a variety of things to different people. Any of the alternatives studied will have to be thoroughly defined as a package of elements addressing capacity, alignment, intersection design, pedestrian/bike facilities and enhancements.
- Will the Crosstown improvements be included in the analysis of alternatives? The future traffic forecasts used for developing and evaluating the alternatives will assume major improvements planned or programmed for the area, including the Crosstown improvements. The SAC asked that the consultant preparing the traffic forecasts provide a list of the improvements assumed in the analysis.

Other comments and questions include:

- How is the West 70th Street report going to be used? After reviewing the draft report, the SAC will finalize the report recommendations. The Transportation Commission (TC) will hold a meeting to review the report and its recommendations, followed by a public hearing. The TC will then present its final recommendations to the City Council.

8. Preview Next Meeting Topics – Beth Bartz, SRF

- Future Traffic Projections
- Proposed Alternatives

Future traffic projects prepared through the Comprehensive Plan process will be available by the September SAC meeting and will be reviewed at that time. Discussion of potential alternatives in consideration of these future volumes will be presented at that meeting, and the SAC asked to identify the alternatives that will be evaluated as part of the West 70th Street Study.

Members in the audience asked to address the SAC. Les Wanninger, ETC Chair, explained that while the SAC meetings are open to the public, they are not public hearings and are instead

focused on the SAC discussion. Opportunities for public comment will be provided later in the process.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15.