

Memorandum

To: Chris LaBounty, PE, Plymouth City Engineer

From: Andrew Plowman, PE, WSB
Ryan Earp, WSB

Date: March 31, 2023

Re: Plymouth Boulevard Corridor (Highway 55 to Rockford Road) – Public Engagement
WSB Project No. 019599-000

Plymouth Boulevard is planned to be reconstructed in 2024. Preliminary design is currently on-going and as part of the process, gathering public feedback was initiated in an attempt to understand the corridor issues. Rather than present options for the public to react to, we requested information about the current corridor without the influence of options.

In December, a website was created www.plymouthmn.gov/plymouthblvd to explain the project and request input from residents, business owners, commuters and visitors to help determine how Plymouth Boulevard functions into the future. The website also provided a link to the City Center 2.0 Study, which was completed in 2021. The City Center 2.0 study encompassed a bigger area, but included the Plymouth Boulevard Corridor.

Process

The following were some of the methods to create interest in the engagement process:

- One pager explaining project
- Information display boards placed in local businesses and City Hall
- Email to local business owners
- Website engagement on the City Website

Survey Results

98 survey results were completed from December 5, 2022 to February 2, 2023. Several questions were asked about how individuals use the corridor and what issues are shown. Below is a summary of the results to the questions:

1. Question: **How often do you use Plymouth Boulevard as a motorist?**

Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Often – Multiple Times a Day	12	12.44%
Often - Daily	18	18.37%
Casually – Every Few Days	40	40.82%
Sometimes - Weekly	18	18.37%
Rarely - Monthly	6	6.12%
Very Rarely – Almost Never	3	3.06%

2. Question: **How often do you use Plymouth Boulevard as a pedestrian or cyclist?**

Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Often – Multiple Times a Day	1	1.02%
Often - Daily	4	4.08%
Casually – Every Few Days	5	5.1%
Sometimes - Weekly	9	9.18%
Rarely - Monthly	17	17.35%
Very Rarely – Almost Never	61	62.24%

3. Question: **What issues do you see with the current roadway?**

Recurring themes:

- In favor of roundabout at the Cub Foods intersection (*not in project area*)
- In favor of roundabout at Rockford Rd and Vicksburg crossing (*not in project area*)
- Pro current stop signs
- In favor of a couple roundabouts (at theme 1 & 2) but not at all the intersections
- No complaints with current roadway

4. Question: **What issues do you see with the intersections?**

Recurring themes:

- Sidewalk widening
- Pedestrian/cyclist considerations with pathways and dedicated lanes
- Desire to have trees planted along the corridor
- In favor of a couple roundabouts – not at all intersections
- Desire for bike pathways

5. Question: **Do you feel comfortable navigating Plymouth Boulevard as a pedestrian or cyclist?**

Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	41	41.84%
No	43	43.88%

A summary of additional comments can be found in the appendix.

It appears that most of the surveyed public uses the corridor mostly as a motorist, and feel somewhat uncomfortable using the corridor as a pedestrian or cyclist. Some folks feel that the intersections need to be upgraded and the introduction of roundabouts may help, but they do not necessarily want roundabouts at each intersection. Some individuals commented on issues outside of the corridor, such as the Vicksburg Lane/35th Avenue Intersection.

Next Steps

The following steps will be to balance the feedback with engineering analysis, design and recommendations approved by engineering staff and the City Council. Below is a list of additional activities that are proposed for the next few months:

- Share finding with City Council – April 11, 2023
- In-person Open House – May, 2023 – Share the proposed design and reasons for enhancements
- Virtual Open House – May, 2023 – June, 2023
- Complete Preferred Layout – July, 2023
- Present Preferred Option to City Council – August, 2023
- Begin Final Design/Right of Way Acquisition Process – August, 2023 – March, 2024
- Bid Project – April, 2024
- Construction – May, 2024 – October, 2024