

Attachment #2

Otter Tail County CSAH 9 Corridor Study and EAW Study Review Committee (SRC) Meeting

Date: August 6, 2008
Time: 3:30 P.M.
Location: Scambler Township Hall
18799 State Highway 34
Pelican Rapids, MN

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Everett Erickson, Otter Tail County Commission
Richard Evenson, Rural Landowner
Dennis Carlblom, Scambler Township
Rick West, Otter Tail County Engineer
Charles Grotte, Otter Tail County Assistant Engineer
Rick Lane, SRF
Brian Shorten, SRF
Arnie Cox, Citizen

I. WELCOME

Members of the SRC were welcomed and an interested citizen (Mr. Arnie Cox) was recognized as in attendance. Mr. Lawrence from the Lake Association was absent.

II. MINUTES OF THE JULY 29, 2008 SRC MEETING

Brian distributed draft minutes of the first SRC meeting and asked for comments today or in the near future.

III. CONCEPTUAL LAYOUTS REVIEW/DISCUSSION

Brian provided an overview of the six (6) concepts SRF had prepared since the SRC's kick off meeting. These concepts were based on needs/issues identified by the Committee, data presented by SRF and technical analysis. Brian noted the county staff and the SRC had asked SRF to suggest new alternatives. Brian noted these new concepts as well as the County's original layout were presented on the map in the member's packet. He also noted that SRF's presentation would include typical sections and ROW for each alternative that was not considered in the County's earlier CSAH 9 work.

Rick Lane then walked SRC members through each concept alternative, using large display maps. These concepts included:

Option 1: An alignment alternative using an urban three-lane section with shoulders and a trail: 80-foot typical section and 40 mph design speed.

Option 2 A&B: A new alignment (a backage road concept) using either a two-lane rural or an urban/rural section with shoulders and an optional trail; 100-foot or 120-foot typical section – 60 mph design speed.

Option 3A,B&C: A new alignment (general modifications of the original county alignment) with a two-lane rural section with shoulders; 120-foot typical section and 60 mph design speed.

The following observations and comments were discussed with the SRC:

- The trail on Option 1 should be on the lakeside to avoid road crossing and keep the road farther from the lakeshore cabins.
- Township representative noted Option 1 would not affect the rural areas and would not generate a jurisdictional transfer of CSAH 9.
- It was felt resource agencies (DNR, COE) would prefer Option 1 although it would probably require some fill into Duck Lake.
- It was emphasized if any of the new alignments were selected, sufficient ROW should be secured; therefore, it was agreed all Options under 2 or 3 should use 120-feet of ROW
- It was noted that any of the Option 2 or 3 alignments may still required some pedestrian safety and pavement improvements to existing CSAH 9, as well as traffic calming measures to further discourage through traffic.

The consensus of the SRC was that none of these options had any fatal flaws and therefore, after incorporating the changes noted above, all discussed options should be included in the Open House Public Meeting presentation for citizen input.

Rick West will contact Terry Letcher, DNR representative, and invite him to the public meeting to seek early DNR input.

Rick Lane noted if Option 1 is supported and after better ROW and local ownership data is secured by the County, temporary stakes could be placed along the proposed right-of-way of the alignment modification to help landowners understand the route's impacts to existing properties.

The SRC asked that all speed data be presented as posted speed (approximately 5 miles per hour less than design speed) to help citizens better understand the layouts.

Rick West noted the County had a good relationship with DNR.

Rick West noted due to cost, it might not be cost-effective to construct a new alignment unless sufficient traffic is projected to use it.

IV. OPEN HOUSE MEETING: PROGRAM, DESIGN LAYOUT, REVIEW/DISCUSSION

Rick West believed that all landowners along and in the study area were mailed public meeting notices and the Lake Association had put the notice in its newsletter. Further, the notice would be placed in the Pelican Rapids newspaper:

Brian presented draft handouts/comment sheets for the meeting and sought SRC input.

The SRC asked that the comment sheet be revised by adding an optional name and address section, and it discussed who the comment sheets should be sent back to. It was agreed to have Rick West, County Engineer, be the repository of the comments and he will share with SRF for compilation.

Mr. Cox noted how important it was for any new alignment to have good acceleration and turn-off lanes, good sight distance, wide shoulders, good vertical clearance and sufficient ROW.

It was agreed that Everett would welcome the public at the open house during the formal presentation, Rick West would provide background information, and then turn it over to SRF staff. The SRC suggested a PowerPoint be used for the presentation.

Brian discussed the probable display boards that would be used to provide information to the public, and the methods of seeking citizen input during the meeting.

The SRC agreed that the meeting purpose was to seek public input on early ideas and ask citizens for additional information on issues, needs, opportunities, so alternatives could be further developed.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward by the SRC.

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM