
Public Open House Summary

Highway 5 Improvements Project – Preliminary Design Phase
September 30, 2024



Highway 5
Improvements



CARVER
COUNTY

Project Overview

Carver County and key partners are embarking on a series of improvements to Highway 5, including expanding the highway from two to four lanes west from Highway 41 in Chanhassen to Downtown Victoria. The project also includes:

- Intersection improvements
- Widening the Lake Minnewashta crossing from two to four lanes
- Reconstruction of Rolling Acres Road/Bavaria Road between Interlaken and 78th Street to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety for all users
- Safety improvements for people walking, bicycling, and rolling, including an improved crossing for the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail



Figure 1: Map of Highway 5 Improvements Project area

The Highway 5 project aligns with the vision set forth in the Arboretum Area Transportation Plan (AATP) to address the following community priorities:

- Reducing traffic congestion
- Improving road safety
- Enhancing walking and bicycling conditions and connections
- Respecting the environment
- Connecting local destinations

During this portion of the preliminary design phase, the project team is sharing community feedback from summer and fall of 2023, gathering public input on refined project design alternatives and visual improvements, providing an update on overall project status and schedule, including the environmental review process, and introducing the potential construction staging plan. On August 21, 2024, the project

team hosted a public open house event. This report provides an overview of the public open house, including outreach methods, meeting materials, and a summary of public feedback collected at the event.

Public Open House

Overview

The project team hosted a public open house at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on Wednesday, August 21, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the event was to inform attendees about updates to the project schedule, funding, environmental review, and noise analysis process; provide a review of updated design details and alternative design options; and share and collect input on potential construction staging plans. Attendees were also encouraged to share their preferences regarding a series of visual improvements related to some of the key improvement areas of the project. About 219 people attended the event, reviewed the materials, and offered their feedback.



Outreach methods

The event was promoted through a variety of methods, including webpage and email updates, social media, and a postcard mailing. City partners (Victoria, Chanhassen, and Chaska) were provided promotional materials and asked to share the materials through their communication networks, tools, and platforms.

Webpage: The [project webpage](#) was updated with the date, time and location of the public open house at the end of June 2024 and updated with additional details in July and August. In August, the project webpage had 4,717 visits from 3,781 unique visitors.

Email updates: An email update of the event was sent to the Highway 5 email list with 1,183 subscribers on June 28 and received an open rate of 37%. Subsequent email reminders were sent on August 8 and 19, with an open rate of 41% and 41% respectively. Email content was also shared with city partners for distribution on August 7. See appendix A to view the email updates sent from Carver County.

Postcard mailing: A postcard about the public open house was mailed on August 1 to over 2,200 property addresses along and near the project area. See appendix A to view the postcard that was sent.

Social media: A Facebook event for the public open house was published on August 6. From August 14 – 21, the Facebook event was boosted with an \$100 budget to target users in the Waconia, Victoria, Chaska, and Chanhassen zip codes. The event reached 1,864 accounts, with 40 link clicks and 75 event responses. Social media content was shared with City partners on August 7 for their own promotion. See appendix A to view the social content used to promote the open house.



Meeting materials

The following materials were provided at the public open house. After the event, meeting materials were posted to the project webpage. An email update was sent on August 30 to the Highway 5 email list to inform subscribers that the materials are available [online](#).

Display boards: Exhibits at the public open house included 31 display boards with information about the following:

- Project purpose and updates to schedule and funding
- Environmental and noise analysis processes status
- Potential construction staging
- Updated design details and alternatives
- Visual improvements

On the visual improvement display boards, participants were encouraged to express their preferences among low-, medium-, and high-level treatment options for eight visual improvements.



Layouts: Two large, detailed design layouts of the Highway 5 Improvements project were displayed for attendees to examine and ask questions of the project team.

Handouts: Five handouts were provided to attendees. The handouts included details related to the purpose of the project; the identified improvement areas that correspond with the detailed design layout; frequently asked questions about the Rolling Acres Road and Tamarack Trail roundabout; the Arboretum Area Transportation Plan; and the City of Victoria projects.

Video: A video was shown about the MnDOT noise analysis process.

Comment cards: Comment cards were provided to capture public feedback. The cards included space for attendees to write their name, email address, and nearest intersection, and prompted them to note any opportunities or challenges they saw in the presented materials and design plans. Thirteen comment cards were filled in and given back to the project team. These comments are summarized in the section below.

Contact cards: Contact cards with the project webpage, phone number, and email were provided. An email sign up sheet was also provided for attendees to provide their emails for the project mailing list.

Color activity: A large coloring activity was provided for children and other attendees during the event.



What we heard

The project team welcomed about 219 total attendees at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Thirteen comment cards were received, and the project team members wrote notes of their interactions with attendees. The main themes of these comments and notes are summarized below.

Highway 5 and Minnewashta Parkway Signalized Intersection: Residents living on and near Minnewashta Parkway raised some concerns about the new signalized, four-way intersection for Highway 5, Minnewashta Parkway and the new Arboretum entrance/exit. Residents are concerned that Arboretum guests will exit the Arboretum at the new intersection and use Minnewashta Parkway as a through-street to their next destination. The Arboretum has previously emphasized that most of the exiting traffic will continue to use the existing access.

Rolling Acres Road and Tamarack Roundabout:

Attendees expressed concerns regarding the roundabout at Rolling Acres Road and Tamarack Trail. Attendees claim the road will be less safe for pedestrians with the roundabout and suggest lowering the speed limit instead, noting that speed limits are lower further south on Rolling Acres Road.



Rolling Acres Road and Interlaken Roundabout: Residents living in the Swiss Mountain neighborhood, near the roundabout at Rolling Acres Road and Interlaken, shared strong dissatisfaction about the location of the proposed roundabout. Attendees raised concerns that the church is receiving special accommodations, and that the Interlaken roundabout was added to benefit the church. Commenters also expressed that the median was too large on Rolling Acres Road. Residents living on Interlaken stated that the current speed limit is too high; they suggested lowering the speed limit and adding speed bumps on Interlaken. These residents also voiced concerns that the roundabout is dangerous and will lead to increased speeds and collisions. Other concerns include the destruction of neighborhood character, lowering property values, and changing traffic patterns.

Noise Walls: Many residents presented opposing views regarding potential noise walls. Some are hoping to receive a noise wall in their neighborhood, while others do not want noise walls installed.

Some attendees expressed confusion about the noise analysis process outlined on the project boards. A couple of attendees expressed frustration that they would not have a say in whether their neighborhood would receive a noise wall.

Construction and Closures: Attendees expressed concerns regarding road closures during the upcoming construction. Specifically, residents are concerned about any full closure of Highway 5 and how that could affect traffic in the area. Attendees urge the project team to minimize the full closures of Highway 5 as much as possible.

Highway 7 Detour: Minnesota House Representative Lucy Rehm expressed concerns about the proposed plan to use Highway 7 as a key detour route during construction of the project. Representative Rehm highlighted existing safety concerns related to Highway 7 and noted that increased traffic volumes could lead to more conflicts and accidents. Other attendees observed that during the recent Highway 5 closure in August for the soil boring activities, Highway 7 was not able to accommodate the increased traffic to make this a viable detour route. Representative Rehm suggested making improvements to Highway 7 before construction begins on Highway 5.

Local and Regional Detours: Attendees raised questions regarding the proposed detour routes for construction, citing concerns related to the recent Highway 5 closure for soil boring activities and subsequent detours. Residents are hopeful that detour conditions will improve with the 82nd Street construction's completion, though they emphasize the need for separation between local and regional detours to maintain manageable local traffic flow in the area.

Minnewashta Lake Residential Property: The newly built residential property adjacent to Highway 5 and Minnewashta Lake crossing raised some concerns and a lot of questions from the attendees of the open house. Primarily, commentors expressed confusion about how this property development was approved. Attendees shared concerns that vehicles entering and exiting Highway 5 from the property will create dangerous conflicts with the traffic on Highway 5.

Visual Improvements: While some attendees expressed that they'd prefer no visual improvements be made as part of this project, due to the costs of maintenance, most respondents chose medium- and high-level treatment options for the given improvement areas. Attendees preferred the medium-level treatment options for the Victoria Roundabout at Commercial Avenue, Victoria Pedestrian Overpass at 78th Street, and Madelyn Creek Underpass. Attendees preferred the high-level treatment options for the Rolling Acres Road Roundabout at Tamarack Trail, Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail Underpass, Rolling Acres Road Median, and Rolling Acres Roundabout at Interlaken. When choosing their preference of stamped color concrete, attendees overwhelmingly prefer the gray tile design.



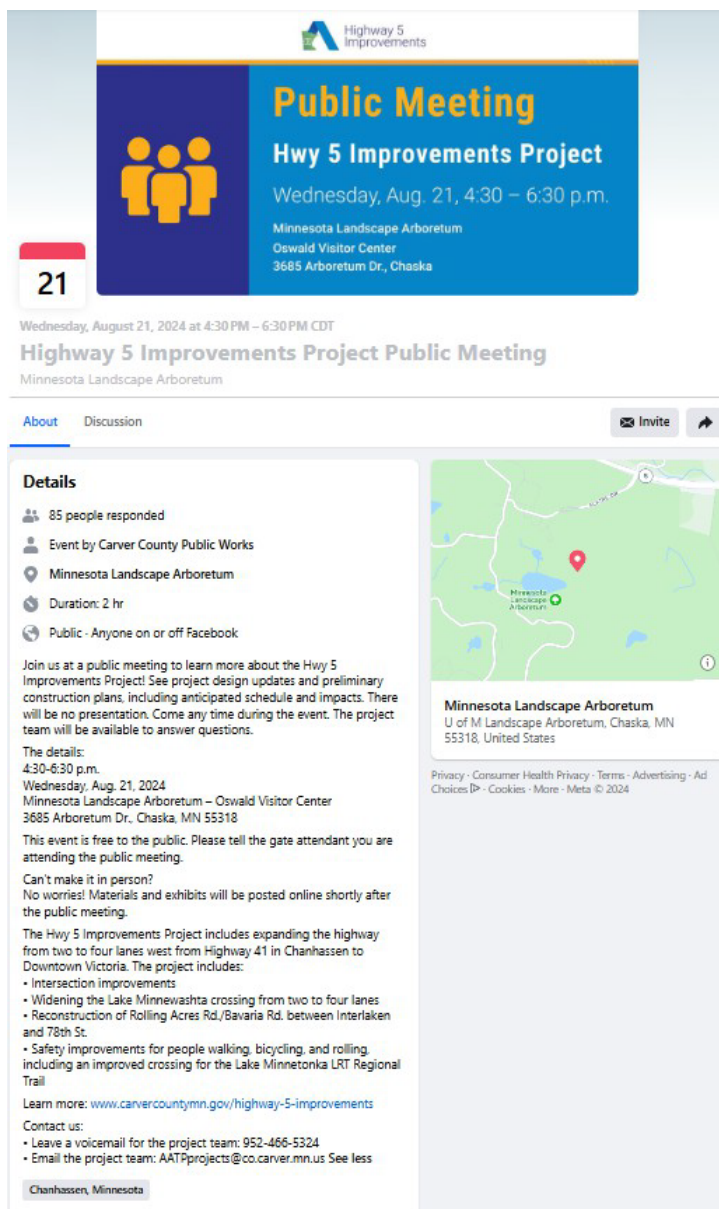
HIGHWAY 5 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

APPENDIX A) PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Social Media Promotions

Carver County Facebook Event



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook event page. At the top, there is a banner for the "Highway 5 Improvements Project" with a logo and the text "Public Meeting Hwy 5 Improvements Project". Below the banner, the event details are listed: "Wednesday, Aug. 21, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m." and the location "Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Oswald Visitor Center, 3685 Arboretum Dr., Chaska". A calendar icon shows the date "21". Below the banner, the event title "Highway 5 Improvements Project Public Meeting" is displayed, along with the location "Minnesota Landscape Arboretum". The page includes navigation tabs for "About" and "Discussion", and buttons for "Invite" and "Share". The "Details" section on the left provides information about the event, including the number of people who responded (85), the event organizer (Carver County Public Works), the location (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum), the duration (2 hours), and the privacy setting (Public). It also includes a description of the event, contact information, and a link to the project website. On the right, there is a map showing the location of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, MN.

Highway 5 Improvements Project
Public Meeting
Hwy 5 Improvements Project
Wednesday, Aug. 21, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Oswald Visitor Center
3685 Arboretum Dr., Chaska

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Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM CDT

Highway 5 Improvements Project Public Meeting
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

About Discussion Invite Share

Details

85 people responded

Event by Carver County Public Works

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Duration: 2 hr

Public - Anyone on or off Facebook

Join us at a public meeting to learn more about the Hwy 5 Improvements Project! See project design updates and preliminary construction plans, including anticipated schedule and impacts. There will be no presentation. Come any time during the event. The project team will be available to answer questions.

The details:
4:30-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum - Oswald Visitor Center
3685 Arboretum Dr., Chaska, MN 55318

This event is free to the public. Please tell the gate attendant you are attending the public meeting.

Can't make it in person?
No worries! Materials and exhibits will be posted online shortly after the public meeting.

The Hwy 5 Improvements Project includes expanding the highway from two to four lanes west from Highway 41 in Chanhassen to Downtown Victoria. The project includes:

- Intersection Improvements
- Widening the Lake Minnewashta crossing from two to four lanes
- Reconstruction of Rolling Acres Rd./Bavaria Rd. between Interlaken and 78th St.
- Safety improvements for people walking, bicycling, and rolling, including an improved crossing for the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail

Learn more: www.carvercountymn.gov/highway-5-improvements

Contact us:

- Leave a voicemail for the project team: 952-466-5324
- Email the project team: AATProjects@co.carver.mn.us See less

Chanhassen, Minnesota

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
U of M Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN
55318, United States

Privacy - Consumer Health Privacy - Terms - Advertising - Ad Choices IP - Cookies - More - Meta © 2024

City of Victoria Facebook Post:

 **City of Victoria, MN**
August 16 · 🌐

Join Carver County at a public meeting to learn more about the Highway 5 Improvements Project! You'll be able to view project design updates and preliminary construction plans, including anticipated schedule and impacts. There will be no presentation so feel free to visit any time during the event. The project team will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Highway 5 Improvements Project Open House —

- Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024
- 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum – Oswald Visitor Center (3685 Arboretum Dr., Chaska, MN 55318)
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Learn more at www.carvercountymn.gov/highway-5-improvements.

Contact the Project Team

- Leave a voicemail for the project team: 952-466-5324
- Email the project team: AATProjects@co.carver.mn.us



 Highway 5 Improvements



Public Meeting

Hwy 5 Improvements Project

Wednesday, Aug. 21, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Oswald Visitor Center
3685 Arboretum Dr., Chaska

  6  4

 Like  Comment

Carver County Email Updates:

June 28 Email Update



Highway 5 Project

June 28 Update

Summer schedules - including ours - are getting busier. Our project team has been busy developing detailed designs and connecting with people and businesses in the communities of Victoria, Chaska, and Chanhassen.

We had a great time chatting with almost 70 people at the Chaska Farmers' Market last week. Next, we'll be at the Cars and Caves event at the [Chanhassen AutoPlex](#) on Saturday, June 29 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Stop by to chat with us about the project, the planned improvements, and any questions you might have.

Join us for a public open house

Our next public open house to share project updates is planned for Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Oswald Visitor Center. The project team will share detailed designs and preliminary construction plans. Mark your calendar now and watch for more information in the coming weeks.

More events are planned throughout the summer, too, so keep an eye on these emails for additional opportunities to connect with the team.

August 8 Email Update

Join us at a public open house on Aug. 21

Join us for our next public open house on Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Oswald Visitor Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. *This event is free to the public.* When you arrive, tell the gate attendant you are attending the open house.

Our project team will provide updates on the schedule, funding, environmental and noise analyses, design development, preliminary construction plans, and area visual improvements.

Can't attend the open house? All materials from the event will be available on the Highway 5 Improvements [project webpage](#) approximately one week after the event.

August 19 Email Update

Highway 5 Project

Join us this Wednesday

Hello again,

We hope your calendar of activities includes stopping in to our public open house this Wednesday, Aug. 21, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Oswald Visitor Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

As a reminder, the open house is free to attend. When you arrive at the Arboretum, please tell the gate attendant you are attending our event.

Come view exhibits and others materials and talk to our project team about the schedule, funding, environmental processes, design details, preliminary construction plans, proposed visual improvements, and more.

Upcoming community events

If you can't make it to the public open house this week, come find us at the next Victoria Classic Car Night on Wednesday, Aug. 28, from 5-8 p.m. in Downtown Victoria.

Stop by to chat with us about the project, the planned improvements, and any questions you might have. Check the [project webpage](#) for future events, too.

Postcard:

Front

Highway 5 Improvements Project

You are invited to a public open house

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Oswald Visitor Center
3685 Arboretum Dr., Chaska

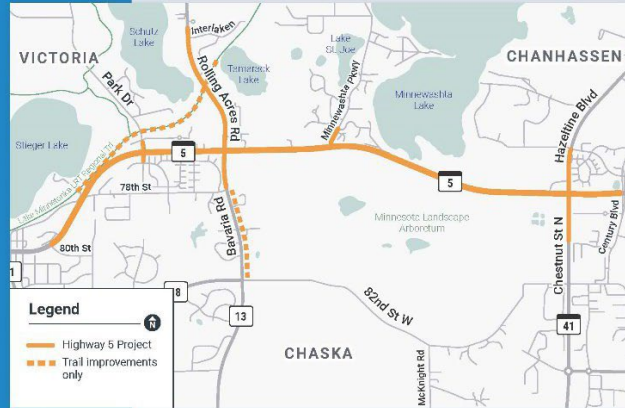
*This event is free to the public.
Please tell the gate attendant you are attending the public open house.*

Carver County, along with project partners, is planning improvements to Highway 5 between Downtown Victoria and Highway 41 in Chanhassen. The County is requesting your attendance to share information about the Highway 5 Improvements Project, including:

- ✓ Schedule and funding
- ✓ Design details
- ✓ Environmental and noise analysis process
- ✓ Preliminary construction plans
- ✓ Preliminary visual improvements



Highway 5 will be closed between Highway 13 in Victoria and Highway 41 in Chanhassen from Aug. 12-18 for soil boring activities. Visit the project webpage to learn more and to see your detour route.



Back

Carver County Public Works
11360 US 212
Cologne, MN 55322

Highway 5 Improvements Project

You are invited to a public open house:
4:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21

Learn more about the project:



[carvercountymn.gov/
highway-5-improvements](http://carvercountymn.gov/highway-5-improvements)

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Oswald Visitor Center
3685 Arboretum Dr., Chaska

AATPprojects@co.carver.mn.us
952-466-5324

Website Analytics – August 2024

Siteimprove

912712024 7:39 AM
Period 81112024- 8131/2024

Page
Highway 5 Improvements | Carver County, MN
<https://v.N.N.J.carvercountymn.gov/departments/public-works/projects-studies/highway-5-improvements>
Period
August 2024

Page overview

Historical overview and comparison

Compare to Align weekdays

(No)

Visits
4,717

Multiple trends

Page views
5,505

Multiple trends

Unique visitors
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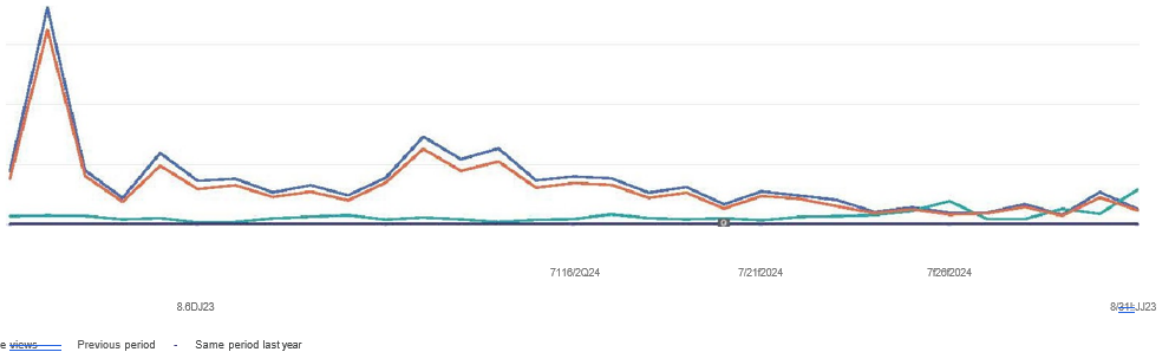
Multiple trends

Returning visitors
411

Multiple trends

Bounce rate
74.40%

Multiple trends



View annotations