Project Background

Washington County

Washington County, in partnership with the City of Afton, will be improving St. Croix Trail in the city.

- Alternatives will be developed based on input from Washington County, the City of Afton, property owners, local businesses and residents.
- Alternatives will evaluate improvements to intersections
- Other considerations will look at needs and opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, parking, drainage, turn lanes, shoulders, safety improvements and aesthetics.
- Alternatives will need to meet standards established by the state and the county.

Role of St. Croix Trail

- Provide north-south continuity for motor vehicles
- Serve a mobility function – it must move traffic safely and efficiently
- Serve local trips and through trips – it is the only connection through downtown Afton
- Provide connections to other county facilities and local roadways
- Facilitate access to downtown businesses and residential properties

Study Process

Washington County

What is the process?

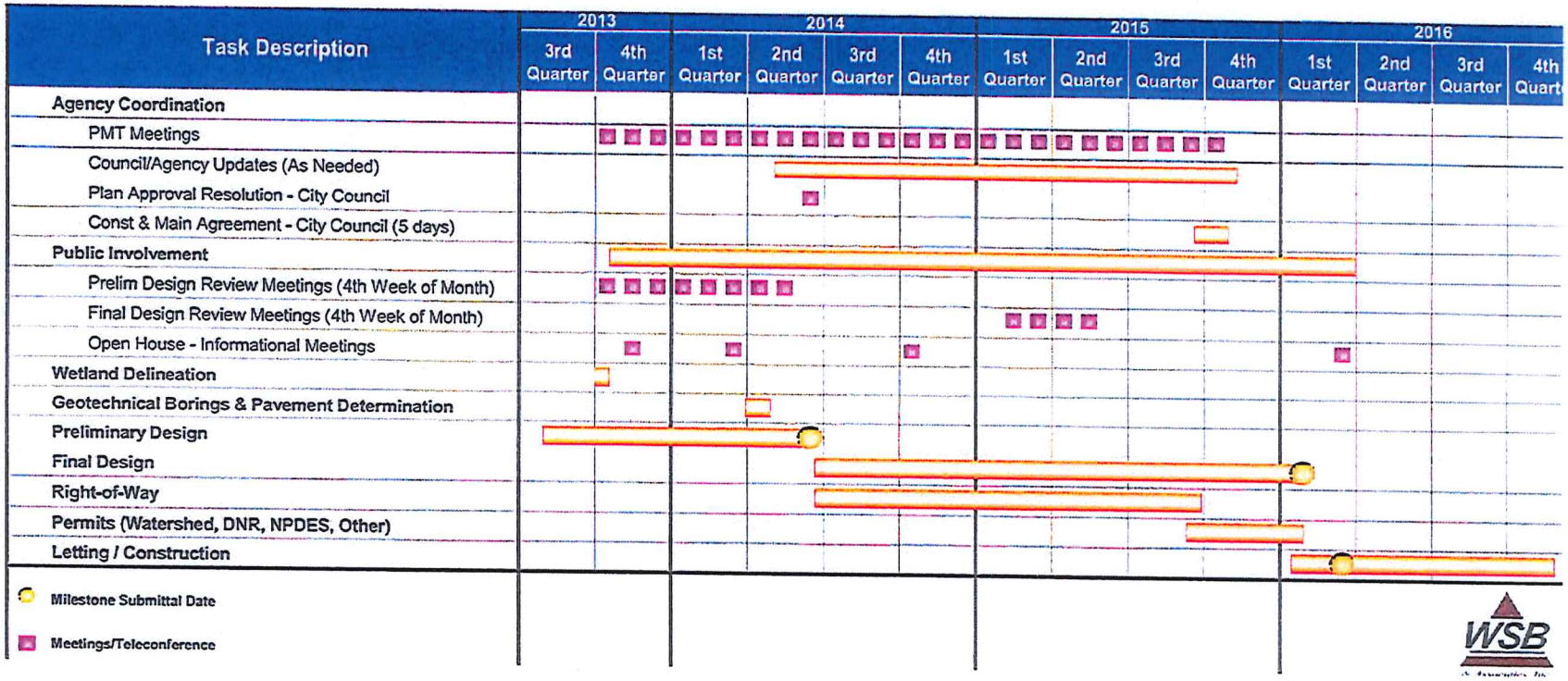
2013 - Early 2014			Spring/Summer 2014		2014 - 2015			2016
Identify project need and funding – Program project in county CIP	Collect data; gather input, and develop project goals	Develop design options and evaluate alternatives to be carried forward	Gather feedback on design options: Roadway and Aesthetics	Select and refine preferred design. Establish construction limits	Review design with community	Plan Approval	Final design and right of way acquisition	Review construction and staging plans	Construction begins
	Open House		Open House		Open House			Open House	
· All project stake-holders	· Public · Design Review Committee · Residents · Property owners · Business owners · City · School districts · Interest groups · Emergency services	· Design Review Committee · City · County · DNR · Environmental agencies · School district · Utility companies · MnDOT · FHWA · Elected officials · Emergency services	· Public · Design Review Committee · Residents · Property owners · Business owners · City · School districts · Interest groups · Emergency services	· Design Review Committee · City · County	· Residents · Businesses · Community Stakeholders	· Design Review Committee (recommendation) · City council (approval) · County (recommendation)	· Impacted property owners · City · County · Utility companies · Design Review Committee (aesthetics)	· Residents · Businesses · Community Stakeholders	

Who has input?

Schedule

Washington County

(Subject to Change)



WSB & Associates, Inc

St. Croix Trail Roadway Improvements in Downtown Afton

WSB & Associates, Inc

Project Goals and Objectives

Washington County

1) Improve Roadway Surface and Subsurface

Objectives:

- Provide stable infrastructure and consistent roadway edges

2) Improve Safety and Mobility for All Users, Including Pedestrians, Bicyclists, and Motorists

Objectives:

- Improve corridor and intersection safety and mobility
- Provide safe facilities and connections for pedestrians and bicyclists along corridor and at key activity centers (i.e., parks, downtown, etc.)

3) Maintain and Enhance the Character of Afton

Objectives:

- Preserve and promote the unique character of historic Afton as both a tourist destination and a local residential/commercial area

4) Minimize Property Impacts

Objectives:

- Minimize permanent property impacts, including tree removal
- Minimize short-term property impacts during construction
- Coordinate road construction with the related City projects to limit the duration and impacts of construction

5) Address Water Quality, Flood, and Drainage Issues

Objectives:

- Minimize roadway footprint
- Improve quality of water to Lake St. Croix
- Resolve existing flood and drainage issues with an environmentally sensitive solution

6) Develop a Cost-Effective and Implementable Solution

Objectives:

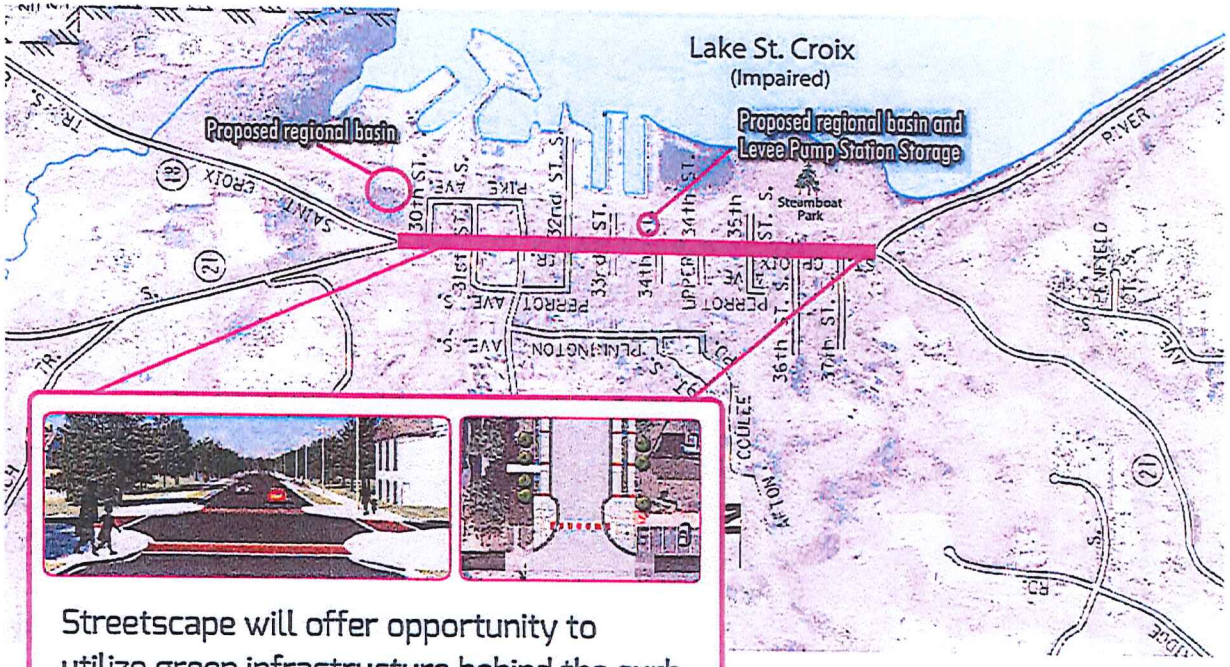
- Project cost is financially feasible
- Implementation of a maintenance and operation plan for the corridor and enhancements is practical

Drainage

Washington County

Drainage & Stormwater Goals:

- Address known flood areas
- Improve overall drainage conditions
- Provide Stormwater Treatment
- To improve water quality to Lake St. Croix
- To meet watershed rules
- Utilize regional systems to maximize treatment efficiency
- Utilize green infrastructure to utilize stormwater as an amenity
- Coordinate drainage between City and County Projects



Streetscape will offer opportunity to utilize green infrastructure behind the curb along CR 21. Possible options include tree boxes, filter trenches, pavers, etc.

*Additional stormwater improvements will be constructed with City reconstruction project

St. Croix Trail Roadway Improvements in Downtown Afton

Washington County

OPEN HOUSE GUIDE

March 2014

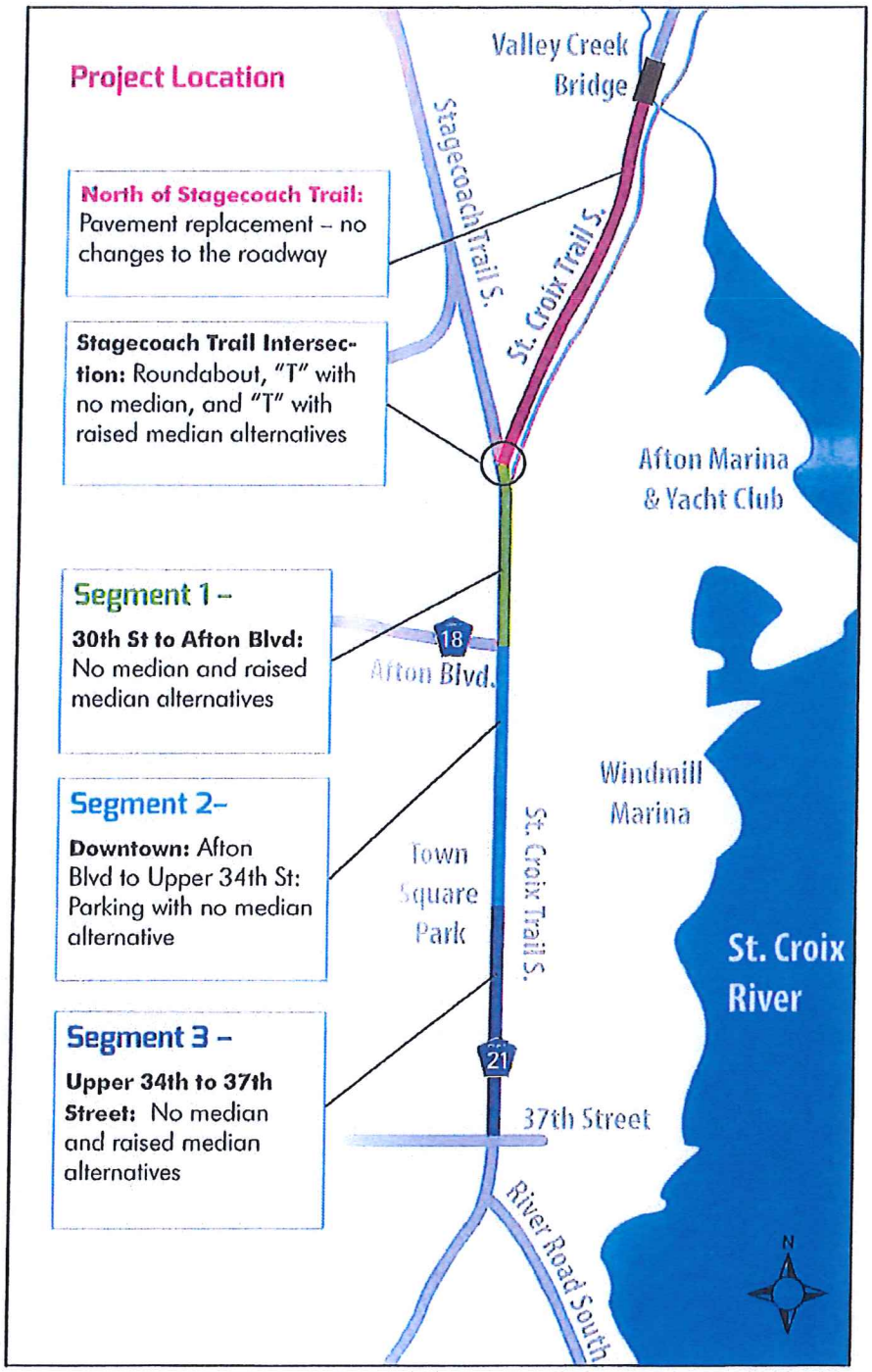
Thank you for attending this open house.

Before you leave:

- Review concepts for the entire corridor on the tables
- Review focused area drawings at the four stations
- Discuss alternatives and questions with the project team

How can I provide input?

- Share your comments and concerns
- Have staff record comments on the drawings and answer questions
- Fill out a comment card



St. Croix Trail Roadway Improvements in Downtown Afton

Washington County

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

March 2014

What is the project?

Rebuild the infrastructure of St. Croix Trail (County Road 21) through Afton from the north split at Stagecoach Trail to 37th Street South.

Construction timeline:

Road construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2016 and be substantially completed in 2016.

Will the road work be coordinated with the Afton's levee, sewer and street projects?

Yes -- the City and County are coordinating construction activities and schedules to minimize cost and disruption to traffic flow and the community.

Project Goals and Objectives:

- Rebuild the roadway
- Improve safety and accessibility for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Construct a drainage system to address localized flooding and water quality
- Maintain and enhance the character of Afton
- Minimize property impacts
- Develop a cost effective solution

What decisions have been made?

- 'Y' intersection at Stagecoach Trail and St Croix Trail will be realigned to improve safety and mobility.
- Turn lanes on St Croix Trail at Afton Boulevard and Stagecoach Trail to prevent crashes
- Minimized width of lanes and shoulder to reduce the roadway "footprint"
- Curb and gutter along St Croix Trail to promote drainage and alleviate localized flooding

What are the options under consideration at this time?

- 'T' intersection where Stagecoach Trail intersects St Croix Trail at 90 degrees OR a
- Roundabout intersection at Stagecoach Trail and St Croix Trail
- "Gateway" medians at the north and south ends of the project
- On-street parking locations
- Sidewalks on both sides of the road
- Sidewalk extensions at key pedestrian crossings

Next Steps:

- Review community input with project team (County/City) and Design Review Committee
- Select the design that best meet the goals of the project
- Refine the design, determine construction impacts
- Determine potential amenities
- Review with community

What other amenities will be considered during the next steps?

- Roadway and median landscaping
- Burying overhead utilities
- Street and pedestrian lighting (re-use, replace or combination of existing lights)
- Decorative sidewalks, cross-walks and curb extensions
- Aesthetics to enhance and promote Afton character

For more project information and to sign-up for email updates, please visit the project website: www.co.washington.mn.us/AftonCR21

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

March 2014

Will roundabouts be considered?

A roundabout, in addition to a 'T' intersection, is being evaluated as a treatment for the Stagecoach Trail intersection. Roundabouts are generally considered one of the safest intersection controls. A roundabout at this location will require more property acquisition than a T-intersection.

Will on-street parking be allowed?

On-street parking will be permitted on both sides of St. Croix Trail where 10' parking lanes are designated. The extent of parking lanes is being evaluated at this time.

How has the 'footprint' of St Croix Trail been minimized?

Based on community input, driving lanes, parking lanes and shoulders are at the minimum width for a county road while still providing safe accommodations for all roadway users.

How will bicyclists and other recreational users be accommodated?

St. Croix Trail will include a 4' paved shoulder, in areas without parking, for on-street cyclists. Sidewalks on both sides of the roadway and clearly defined crosswalks will be included for pedestrians. These facilities will connect to off-road trail systems for recreational use.

Will large vehicles, such as emergency vehicles and boat trailers, be accommodated with the roadway changes?

Emergency vehicles, boat trailers and other large vehicles are being accommodated in the roadway design, particularly for marina traffic and business deliveries.

Will flooding issues be addressed as part of this project?

Roadway drainage and localized flooding along St. Croix Trail will be addressed as part of this project and coordinated with the City's levee project.

Will this project address speeding concerns along St. Croix Trail?

'Traffic-calming' amenities such as sidewalk extensions, medians, landscaping and aesthetics, in addition to the driver feedback sign, are under consideration.

How will businesses be impacted during construction?

After the roadway design option is selected, a construction and phasing plan will be developed in order to minimize impacts to residents and businesses during construction. Access to residents and businesses will be maintained throughout construction.

Can utilities be buried?

Burying overhead utilities during the road reconstruction is under consideration. When the roadway option is determined, placing overhead utilities below ground will be evaluated in more detail along with other aesthetic treatments. The cost associated with burying utilities is a local responsibility.

How will Afton's "unique and rural character" be protected?

Amenities along St Croix Trail to maintain and enhance the Historic Village of Afton will be evaluated during the next steps of the project. The Design Review Committee of local officials, business owners, and residents will review the roadway design and aesthetic amenities and provide recommendations consistent with the values of the local community.

How can I find more information about the project?

Please check the project website below and attend the next public open house scheduled for fall 2014.

Who can I contact with questions?

Jane Krebsbach, Washington County Project Manager
Phone: 651-430-4330 Email: jane.krebsbach@co.washington.mn.us

For more project information and to sign-up for email updates, please visit the project website: www.co.washington.mn.us/AftonCR21