

Public Engagement along the Project Development Continuum

Public Engagement Planning Exercise

General Facts:

- MnDOT plans to reconstruct 6 blocks of TH 99 through downtown Anytown, MN with construction scheduled for 2024 and 2025
 - MnDOT's goals are to improve the road surface, safety, and drainage while also ensuring sidewalk slopes and curb ramps are ADA compliant
- Anytown, MN is home to 15,000 residents and growing
 - Half of its adult residents work at either the local snowmobile manufacturer or chicken processing plant (both located within 5 miles of town off of TH 99).
 - The other half of adult residents commute to Citytropolis, a regional economic center (located 45 miles away).
 - Anytown's immigrant population from both Central America and Africa have increased 20% over the past decade.
 - Anytown's elderly and school-age populations are also increasing. There are more people moving into assisted living facilities and more children entering school.
- 2005 was the last time MnDOT worked on TH 99 beyond general maintenance.
- The proposed project is located entirely within the Anytown Historic District.
- MnDOT owns the Right of Way in fee all the way up to the buildings along TH 99.

Group 1: Specific Facts for Engagement during Scoping:

- Over the past two years, downtown Anytown has seen an economic revitalization take place. Once shuttered shops are reopening and new restaurants are coming to town. Some of these changes have been driven by the increase in immigrant population and some of these changes have been driven by economic recovery after the 2008 recession.
- There are plans to add a new assisted living facility two blocks from downtown in 2019. One of the primary reasons why the location was chosen was its close proximity to the restaurants and shops along "main street" (TH 99).
- There are also plans to build an addition to the school complex, which abuts TH 99 just outside of the proposed project area. The school serves students from Anytown and two other towns in the area. The vision for the school complex includes a larger school building for both the elementary and middle school aged children along with a new high school auditorium, gym, and ball fields. Right now the plan is to build these additions in phases beginning in 2020 and going through 2025. There is talk about a tax levy to pay for these additions.
- In 2005, there were a few people in the community who expressed their desire for slower speeds and more walkability in downtown Anytown. The City Council, however, did not support that due to the others who wanted to be able to easily commute to Citytropolis without being slowed down (City Council minutes state that there was a desire to attract more "commuters" who wanted to escape big city life by moving to Anytown).

Group 2: Specific Facts for Engagement during Design:

- Since scoping, a few changes have taken place. An assisted living facility was built next to TH 99, and many residents desire the ability to walk to the shops and restaurants. They generally have limited mobility. The school complex expanded by adding a larger elementary and middle school building, and 30% of students walk to and from school across TH 99.

- There are talks in the community about returning the street scape to the historical look it had (street lights, benches, trashcans, etc.).

Group 3: Specific Facts for Engagement during Construction:

- Businesses along TH 99 have the majority of their income come during the summer from tourists traveling through to “lake country.”
- Even though school is out for the summer, the school complex still hosts baseball and softball games throughout the summer and football practice during the early fall. The auditorium is used by a theatre camp.