

Janesville Road Reconstruction

Project Update

This is the third newsletter for the Janesville Road Reconstruction Project study. The project, which began in Fall 2007, consists of an engineering and environmental study to expand Janesville Road from a two-lane road to a modern four-lane road. To date, the project has mainly focused on developing an alternative that would meet Waukesha County's transportation needs while being sensitive to the community's needs.

To achieve this balance between transportation needs and the community's needs, Waukesha County elected to use a stakeholder involvement tool known as Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). An advisory group (AG) was formed from members of your community and was tasked with helping the County identify issues, or perceived problems, with the existing road. They also formulated goals that the reconstructed road should address. The AG met on five separate occasions in workshops conducted by a trained CSS facilitator. The work that the AG did over those five meetings was invaluable to the county during their decision-making process.

Along with the five AG workshops, Waukesha County held two public information meetings to gather the larger community's views and opinions on how the reconstructed should look once complete. Through comments received at these public information meetings and written comments that were left at the meeting or sent to the project team, the County was able to develop a preferred alternative that would be able to balance the transportation and community needs. The following section will describe for you the range of alternatives considered and what it is that the County is determined to do to improve transportation in your community.

Alternatives Considered

The City of Muskego has been discussing the widening of Janesville Road for a few years. A Mayor's Task Force created by the former Mayor developed recommendations for widening Janesville Road in 2006. The work that was begun by this group was instrumental to the County and the project consultants and the alternatives that

Project Location Map



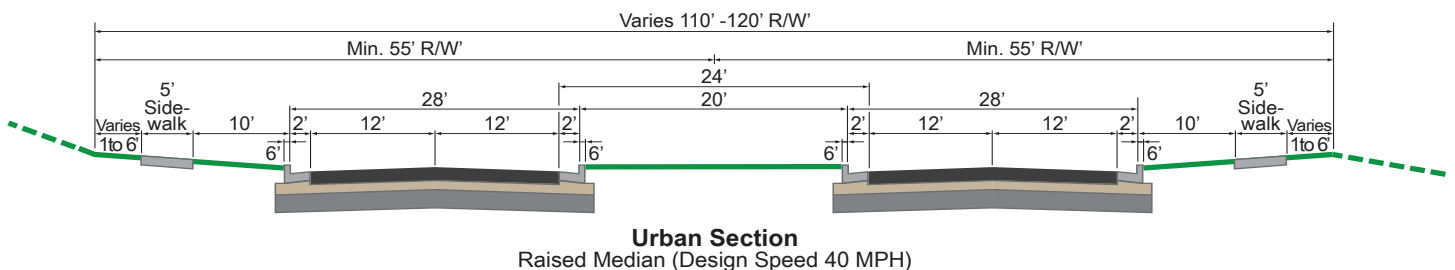
were developed for the current study may seem familiar to you. The alternatives that were considered by the AG, County and City of Muskego were presented to the public at the first public information meeting. These alternatives included either a raised median or a two-way left turn lane (TWLTL).

The AG recommended that the raised median be used from Racine Avenue to Park Drive and from Lannon Drive to Moorland Road. For the section between Park Drive and Lannon Drive, the AG recommended using the TWLTL. Waukesha County, in coordination with the City of Muskego and additional input from businesses, elected to use the raised median for the entire length of the corridor, from Racine Avenue to Moorland Road. The decision to select the raised median, as the preferred alternative, carefully considered the trade-offs between business impacts and the safety of the traveling public and pedestrians. The preferred alternative is discussed below.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative generally consists of a four-lane road with a twenty foot raised median, curb and gutter, five foot wide sidewalks on both sides of the road and a ten-foot wide grassed terrace between the curb and sidewalk. Median openings will be provided at intersecting roads and in between intersections, in accordance with County design standards.

Preferred Alternative



The preferred alternative will be centered on the existing road's centerline, except for areas where the road is shifted to flatten curves. This occurs in two locations, near Lincoln Drive and Park Drive. Otherwise the widening will be equal on both sides of the road. Traffic signals will also be installed at Lannon Drive, Bay Lane Drive and Martin Drive.

One of the practical considerations for using a raised median and providing terraces on the side of the road is in regards to snow removal. This alternative allows the County Snowplow operators to push snow up onto the median and the terrace. This option would not be available if a TWLTL was used. There is also an inherent safety feature of using a raised median as it separates opposing traffic.

Waukesha County is currently preparing the Acquisition Stage Relocation Plan for this project. This process involves only those properties the county needs to buy and provide relocation services. All affected owners have been contacted by the county. We anticipate completing the relocation plan in the next several months and begin the relocations this spring.

The schedule for the purchase of the remaining right of way will be determined once the project is designed and the limits of each phase are finalized. We hope to begin purchasing strips of land and easements late this year and continue through 2011.

Upcoming Events

The final road plans will be developed in 2009 and 2010 and Right of Way acquisition will continue. Depending on available funding, construction will begin in the spring of 2011. The roadway segments to begin construction will be determined as right of way acquisition is completed. No additional public meetings are scheduled at this time.

Website

Please visit the project's website at <http://www.janesvilleroad.com> for additional information about the project.

For more information please contact

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