

# Open House Comments Summary – January 26, 2010

## CSAH 17 (Lexington Avenue) Transportation Improvements

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A Public Open House regarding the proposed improvements on Anoka County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 17 occurred on January 26, 2010, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Twenty-three (23) people signed in and attended the meeting; however, it was observed not everyone who attended signed in.

Adjacent property owners within a half-mile radius of the project area were informed of the meeting through a meeting notice mailing. A press release providing the meeting date and project description was also submitted to the ABC Papers (official papers in Blaine and Ham Lake).

Staff in attendance at this meeting noted the following verbal comments regarding the proposed project:

- **13071 Lexington (Noise Receptor R12 – His parents own R11)** – He was informed that the noise levels on his parents’ property exceeded federal standards and that construction of a noise barrier would be feasible on their property. The next step is to determine whether it is reasonable. Jason Orcutt discussed relocation of the driveways to these 2 parcels to be joined together and access CSAH 17 across from 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue. This would allow analysis of a barrier across R11 without a gap. A noise barrier analysis will look at both options to determine whether either option is cost-effective. Homeowners will be contacted after city councils agree on a preferred build alternative for CSAH 17, most likely early summer 2010.
- **12614 Lexington (Noise Receptor R40)** – Owner conveyed how the truck traffic affects his house, the house literally shakes. He wanted to know where noise barriers would be constructed. Property owner was informed that the noise levels on their property exceed federal standards. It was explained that we have determined the locations where noise barriers are feasible, his property is one of those locations and that now will be determining whether it is reasonable to construct a noise barrier at those locations.
- **13010 and 13050 Lexington (Noise Receptor R44/R45)** – Property owners were concerned with how much noisier it will be when their trees are removed to reconstruct CSAH 17. It was explained to them that information provided by Mn/DOT states that vegetation is only effective for reducing noise levels if it is at least 100 feet deep, high enough that it cannot be seen over, and dense enough that it cannot be seen through. Neither of these properties have 100-ft of dense vegetation between the road and receptor. Both property owners attested that when minimal clearing was performed by the power company, a higher noise level was heard. It was explained that the studies dictate the shielding (reduction of noise) by vegetation and in their cases, no shielding factors were applied for their existing condition; and therefore, no additional increase (due to tree loss) was accounted for. Neither property was approaching or exceeding federal standards; therefore, noise walls would not be considered.

- **13050 Lexington (Noise Receptor R45)** – Property owner stated that they would be willing to relocate their driveway; however, it was explained that since federal standards are not being approached or exceeded, noise walls could not be considered.
- **12847 Lexington (Noise Receptor R7)** – Property owner was informed that the noise levels on their property exceed federal standards and that construction of a noise barrier would not be feasible on their property due to existing driveway configuration. Existing driveways to property could be reconfigured to allow for construction of a noise barrier. Property owner was informed that a noise wall analysis would be completed to determine the reasonableness of constructing a noise barrier at their property. It was discussed that the preliminary analysis for R8 did not appear to be cost-effective and their conditions are similar; i.e. similar road elevations and similar house elevations.
- **12811 Lexington (Noise Receptor R8)** – Property owner was informed that the noise levels on their property exceed federal standards and that construction of a noise barrier would be feasible on their property. Preliminary noise wall analysis results indicate that construction of a noise barrier would not be cost-effective; however, further analysis will be completed with detailed right-of-way costs to determine the reasonableness. City Council approvals on the preferred alternative must also be received before analyses are completed. Anoka County will then be contacting property owners with potential noise barriers.
- **Kathy Beaman, Great River Energy** – Great River Energy owns easements in the project area and she was asked whether this easement would preclude the construction of noise barriers within this easement. She informed us that no, it would not, but coordination would need to be made so that the poles are designed with the barrier in mind and any additional costs would be the responsibility of the county; i.e. additional height poles, new poles, etc. For estimation purposes, \$15,000/pole could be used for new poles.
- **General** - Lexington Avenue is a busy, noisy corridor.

The following is a summary of written comments received from the meeting:

1. **Construct on the east side to minimize impacts on properties**
  - Good job!! On the shift to the east. This helps us. Thank you!
2. **Right of Way**
  - We learned one new piece of info from the “right of way” person. And had other info we were told at the last meeting in Blaine denied by people here. Conflicting information is no information at all.
3. **Cross Over on 131<sup>st</sup>.**
  - Concerned about cross over on 131<sup>st</sup>.