



City Council Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Brian Connolly, Public Works Director
Subject: Regional Roadway System Visioning Study (RRSVS) Update
Date: August 22, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting

BACKGROUND:

- The original Regional Roadway System Visioning Study (RRSVS), completed in 2010, was a joint planning effort by Dakota County, The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and the cities of Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Mendota Heights, and Sunfish Lake.
- In 2010, the northwest area of Inver Grove Heights and the northeast section of Eagan represented one of the largest remaining undeveloped areas along the I-494/I-694 corridor in the Twin Cities. Significant impending growth was anticipated. A comprehensive and unified transportation vision was desirable to support development and to guide future efforts of the cities, county, and MnDOT to plan, fund, and implement transportation improvements. A study area was identified to include the undeveloped areas in Eagan and Inver Grove Heights as well as the fully developed communities of Mendota Heights and Sunfish Lake. The primary area of focus was in an area bounded by I-494 on the north, TH 3 on the east, TH 55 to the south, and TH 149 to the west. This is the area where the most intense development over the following 20 years (2010-2030) was anticipated to occur,
- On July 12, 2010, the City Council adopted the study recommendations of the final report from the original RRSVS. As a result, ongoing development and roadway improvements that have occurred over the past 12 years in the Northwest Area have been guided, in part, due to the recommendations of the original RRSVS report. Such projects within Inver Grove Heights have included the completion of the intersection realignment and signal improvements at TH 55 and Argenta Trail (2016-2017), the extension of 65th Street from Argenta Trail to TH 3 (2017-2022), and the current improvements occurring along 70th Street and Argenta Trail (2022-2023).
- On October 25, 2021, the City Council approved a joint powers agreement for the city to participate in an update to the RRSVS with the same agencies as the 2010 study.
- The recommendations from the current RRSVS Update are intended to continue the success of the original study and to guide the planning and implementation of transportation improvements within the study area over the next 20 years (2022-2042).
- Online comment opportunities were provided at various times during the past year. Open houses were held on November 9, 2021, and June 1, 2022, to present the various draft updates and to solicit additional public feedback.
- Progress updates were presented to the Inver Grove Heights City Council at worksessions on February 7, 2022 and June 6, 2022 to solicit further feedback, address questions, and to guide key portions of the study content related to transportation system recommendations within the City of Inver Grove Heights.

REPORT SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The update recommendations within Inver Grove Heights remain similar to the original 2010 study for system recommendations that have not yet been implemented, and include the following:
 1. Interchange at I-494/Argenta Trail (CSAH 63).
 2. Expand Argenta Trail from 2-lanes to 4-lanes between I-494 and TH 55 upon completion of an interchange at I-494 and Argenta Trail.
 3. Complete a grade-separated interchange at TH 55 and Argenta Trail.
 4. Expand TH 149 from Westcott Road/Argenta Trail to TH 3 from 2-lanes to 4-lanes.
 5. Explore development of a north-south City collector roadway between TH 55/Argenta Trail and County Road 71 (Rich Valley Boulevard) as new development warrants for local roadway access.
 6. Expand TH 3 from 2-lanes to 4-lanes between TH 149 and Diffley Road.
 7. Realignment of 80th Street (CSAH 28) between TH 3 and Babcock Trail.
 8. Expand 70th Street (CSAH 26) from 2-lanes to 3-lanes between TH 3 and Babcock Trail.
 9. Extend 65th Street as a community collector roadway from TH 3 to Babcock Trail.
 10. Extension of 65th Street/Vikings Parkway between Ames Crossing Road (in Eagan) and Argenta Trail (in Inver Grove Heights)
- The study also indicated some roadway improvements that were recommended in 2010 that are ***no longer needed/recommended*** based on current and proposed land use and traffic volumes in the Northwest Area of Inver Grove Heights, including:
 1. Amana Trail (CSAH 28) from Argenta Trail to TH 3 was recommended in 2010 to be upgraded from a 2-lane to a 4-lane configuration. Based on projected development density, the existing 2-lane configuration should accommodate traffic needs for the foreseeable future. As such, this roadway upgrade was not included in the RRSVS Update.
 2. Argenta Trail between I-494 and TH 55 was recommended in 2010 to expand to 6-lanes, but now is only recommended to be converted to a 4-lane roadway (accommodations for the 4-lane expansion included in the 70th Street/Argenta Trail project currently under construction).

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The RRSVS Update is scheduled for County Board consideration in September 2022.
- Participating cities (Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Mendota Heights, and Sunfish Lake) are receiving the RRSVS Update at respective council meetings in August and being asked to accept the recommendations contained therein.
- The RRSVS Update and the associated recommendations have been completed, reviewed by representatives of the Public Works Department, and are recommended for Council consideration in approving the enclosed Resolution.