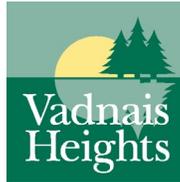


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## *Memorandum:*

TO: Task Force Committee Members

FROM: Kevin Watson, City Administrator

DATE: December 6, 2018

SUBJECT: Koehler Road Task Force

### **Background**

The intent of this first meeting to provide a layout of the corridor and discuss everyone's concerns with this stretch of road and the potential for a trail. Everyone is in agreement that this area is challenging for pedestrians and bicyclists to navigate and feel safe. The task before this committee is to identify recommendations to meet the needs of the community and property owners along this corridor and present those findings to council as appropriate.

### **Ownership**

Koehler Road is under Ramsey County jurisdiction and was recently re-paved between Edgerton Street and County Road E/Centerville Road. As part of that project, the City and County received significant citizen input regarding the need for bicycle/pedestrian facility improvements. Unfortunately, the project scope and funding did not include any additional expansion of the current roadway or its amenities. However, the City was able to work with the County to restripe the stretch of road to provide wider shoulders to allow for easier pedestrian traffic.

Ramsey County has a policy as it relates to participation with sidewalk/trail improvements. See below:

- New Bituminous Trail – 50/50 cost participation, includes grading, aggregate base, surfacing, and ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps.
- New Sidewalk – 50/50 cost participation, Includes grading, aggregate base, surfacing, and ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps.
- Right of Way acquisition – Reduced or none for purposes of a detached trail. County ROW policy does require utilities to move facilities to other available locations within the ROW.

### **Conclusion**

The DRAFT 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies this corridor for future improvements and staff recently worked with ISD 624 to submit a Safe Routes to School Planning Grant. The Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guide to direct future planning/funding and staff will continue to explore grant funds to study the corridor and implement potential improvements, as our initial application was denied.

The City has \$15,000 budgeted to conduct feasibility study by our City Engineer Consultant for this corridor. A feasibility study will identify the potential cost for the project. No funds are identified long term for this project at this time. The hope from our first meeting is to provide direction and mission for that feasibility study. This is a complicated corridor and City staff is eager to hear all concerns from those immediately impacted by this trail.

Attachments:

- Corridor Map