

Mankato City Council Presentation May 27, 2025

Study Overview



Purpose

Evaluate the Hilltop Planning Area, addressing issues and opportunities related to land use transitions and neighborhood traffic characteristics.

Study Elements

- Identify existing issues and concerns through:
 - Neighborhood and public input
 - Traffic and pedestrian/bicycle data collection
 - Crash history
- Develop a future land use plan
- Identify transportation improvement options



Study Timeline



May - September 2024

- Community Open House #1 in May to explain planning purpose and begin collecting input.
- Neighborhood engagement, including pop-up events and online input through Every Voice Mankato.
- Meetings with organizations and businesses in the neighborhood.
- Community Open House #2 in September to review emerging themes, issues and opportunities identified through community, business and organization outreach.
- Plan studies and data collection begins.

October - March 2025

- Plan studies and data collection.

March - April 2025

- Review study data.
- Draft plan development.
- Review draft plan and collect community input at Community Open House #3.

April -May 2025

- Community feedback incorporated into plan.
- Present to City Council Work Session
- Plan revision/finalization.

June-July 2025

- Plan presentation to Planning Commission.
- Plan presentation to City Council.
- Plan adoption.



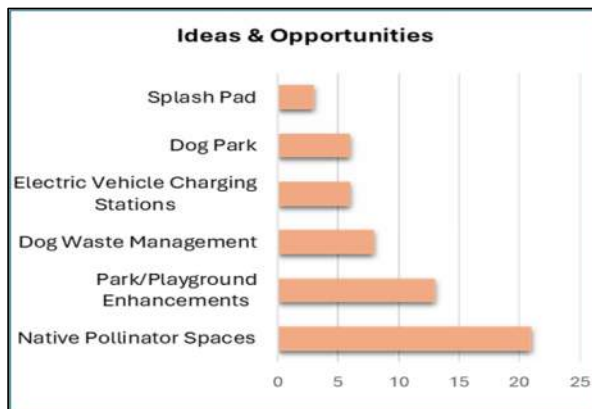
2024 Community Engagement Events



- May 16, 2024 – Washington Elementary
- June 11, 2024 – Erlandson Park
- August 21, 2024 – Alexander Park
- November 14, 2024 – Bethany Lutheran College
- Online Engagement – Every Voice Mankato



What We Heard (2024)



Public Open House #3

- April 29, 2025 – Bethany Lutheran College
- Online Engagement – Every Voice Mankato



HILLTOP PLANNING AREA STUDY OPEN HOUSE

 *Leading the way...*

 Tuesday, April 29  4:00-6:00 p.m.

 Bethany Lutheran College
Bethany Activity Center Alumni Lounge
905 Marsh St., Mankato

Join us for a Hilltop Planning Area Study Open House. Study data and draft plan content will be presented for review and feedback.

 MADISON AVE.
 CROCUS ST.
 VICTORY DR.
 MAIN ST.

 everyvoice.mankato.mn.gov





Transportation Data Collection

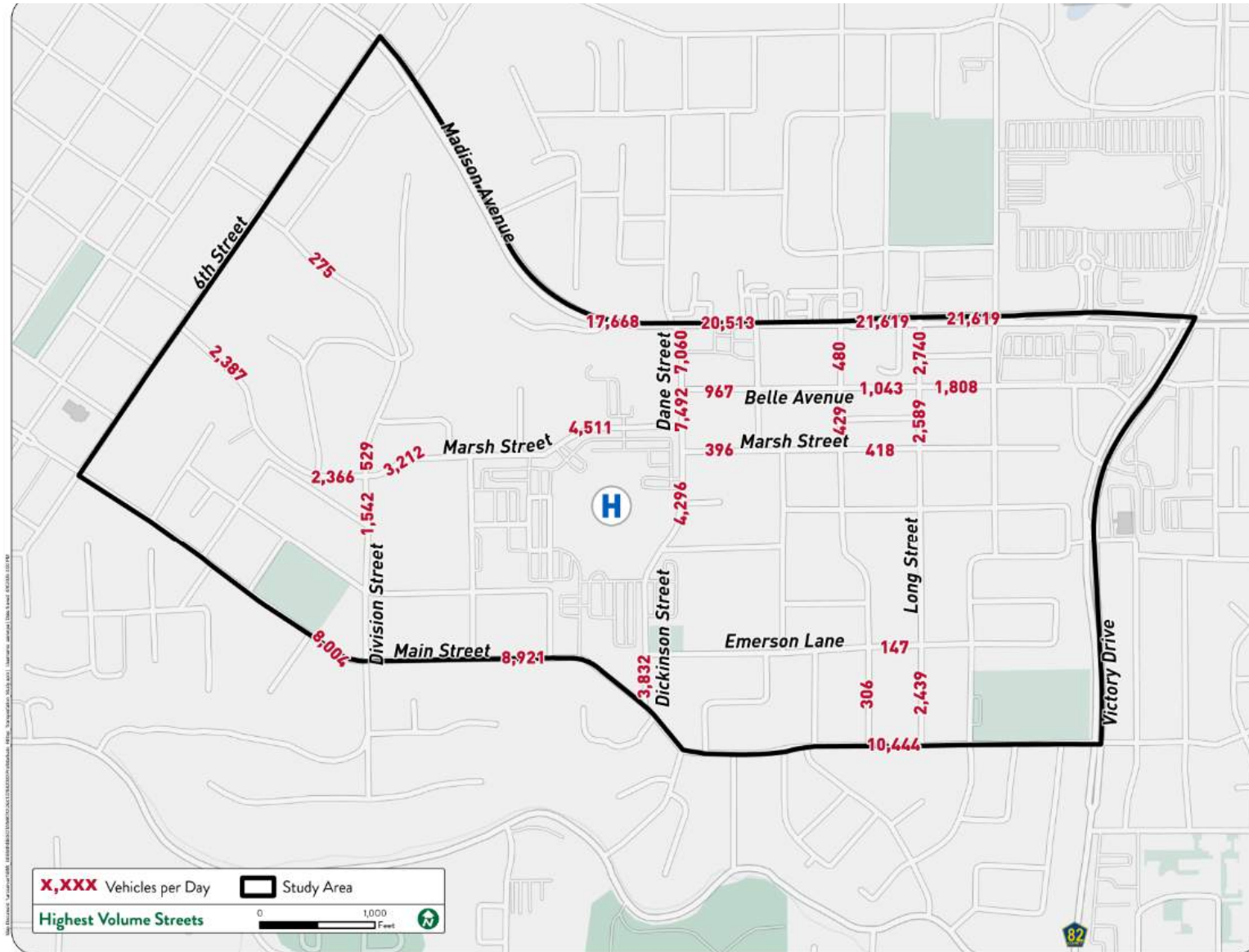


- Traffic Volumes
- Traffic Origin/Destination (Cut-Through)
- Intersection Operations
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Volumes and Network
- Traffic Speeds
- Crash History (2020-2024)
- Transit Network
- Public Feedback



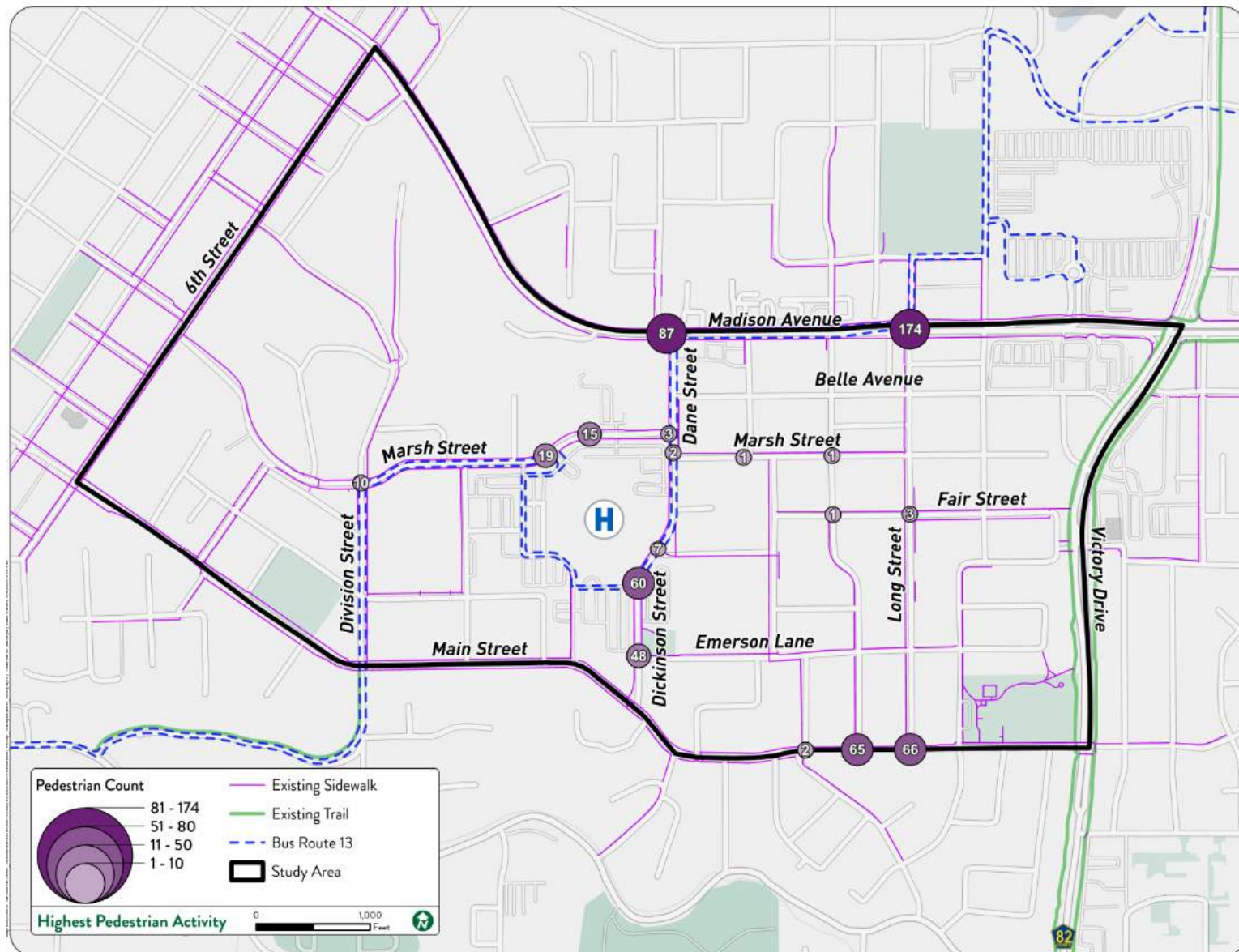
Highest Volume Streets (vehicles/day)

- Marsh St.
- Dickinson St./Dane St.
- Long St.



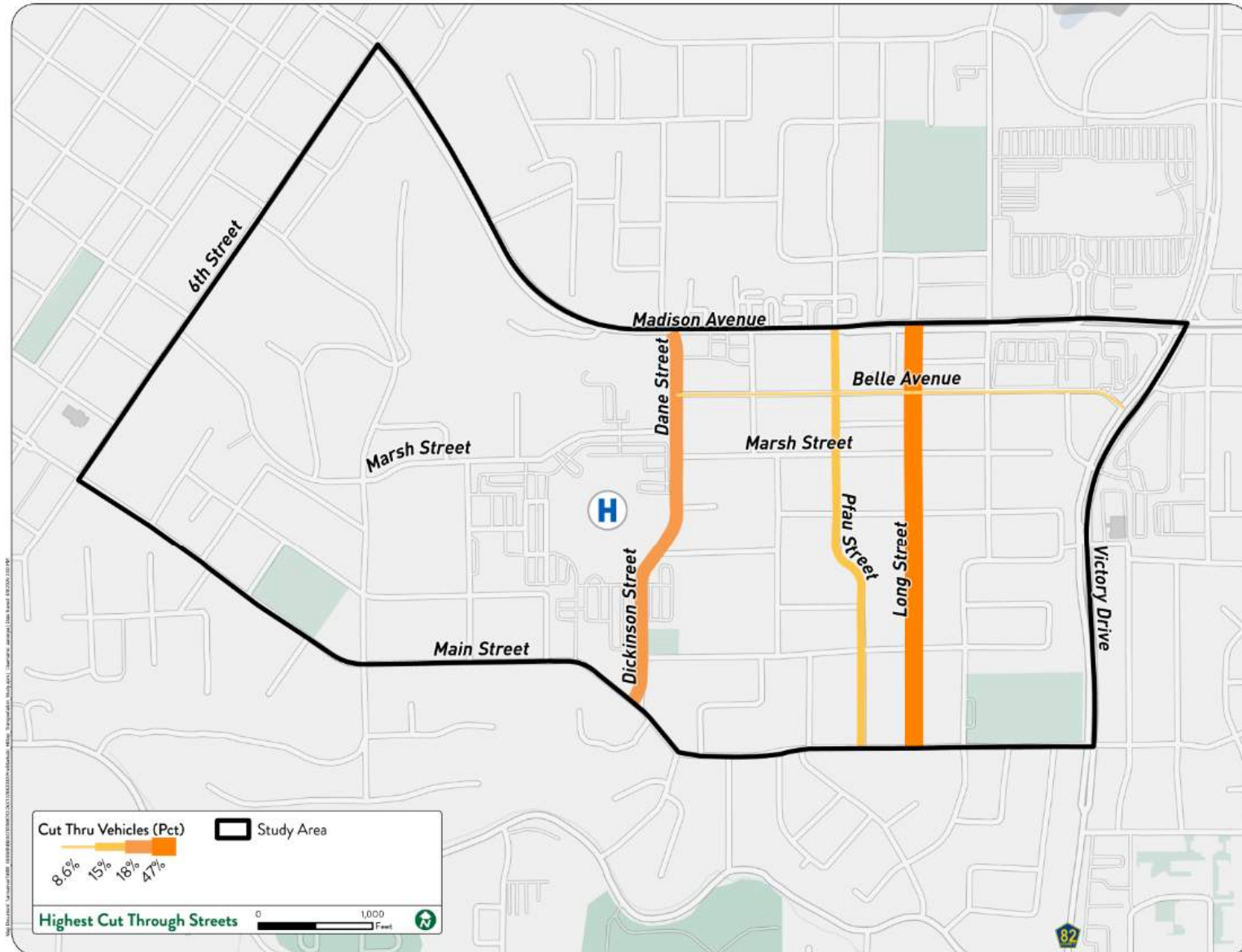
Highest Pedestrian Activity

- Dickinson St./Dane St.
- Marsh St.
- Madison Ave.
- E Main St.



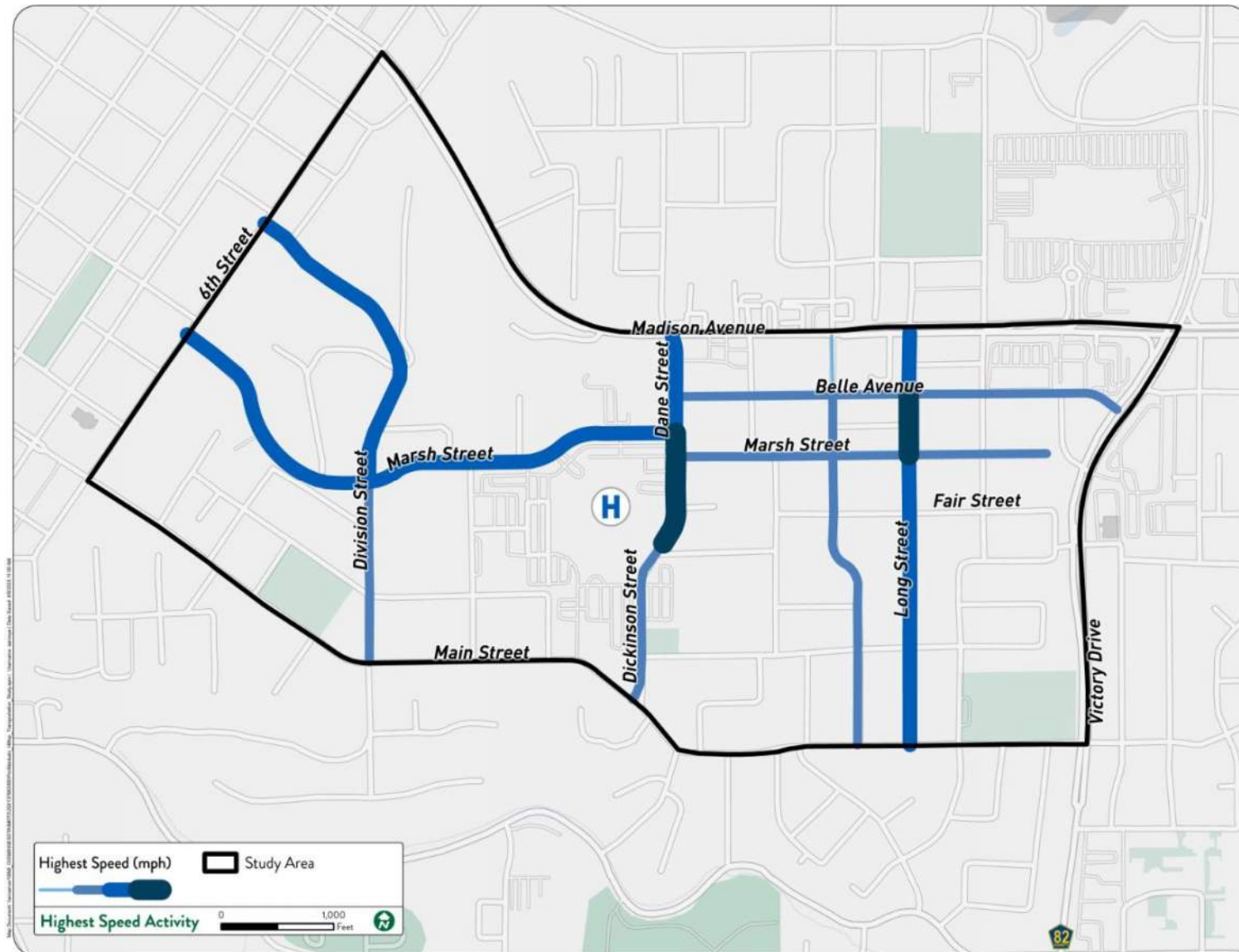
Highest Cut-Through Streets

- Dickinson St./Dane St.
- Long St.
- Pfau St.
- Belle Ave.



Highest Speed Activity

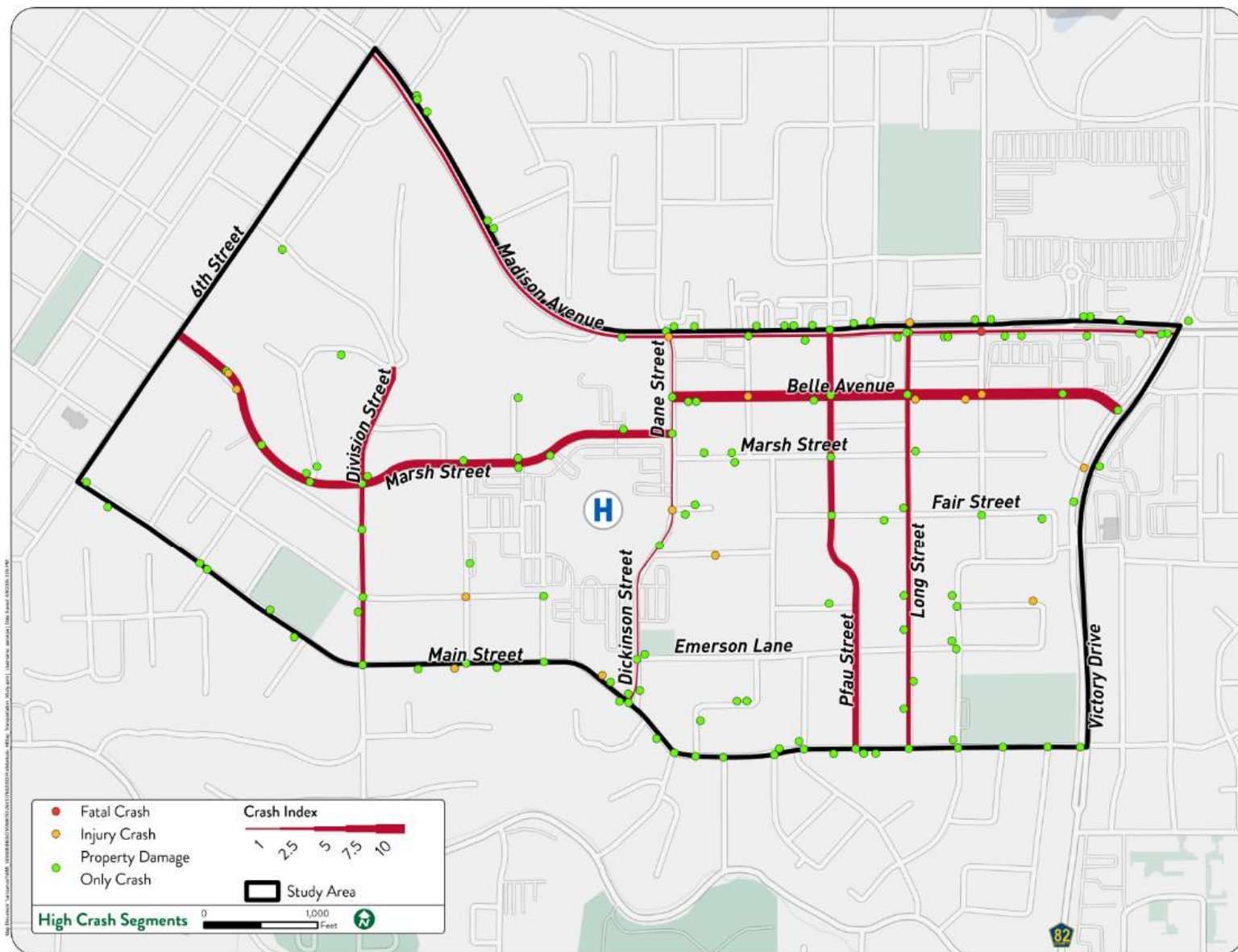
- Dickinson St./Dane St
- Long St.
- Marsh St.



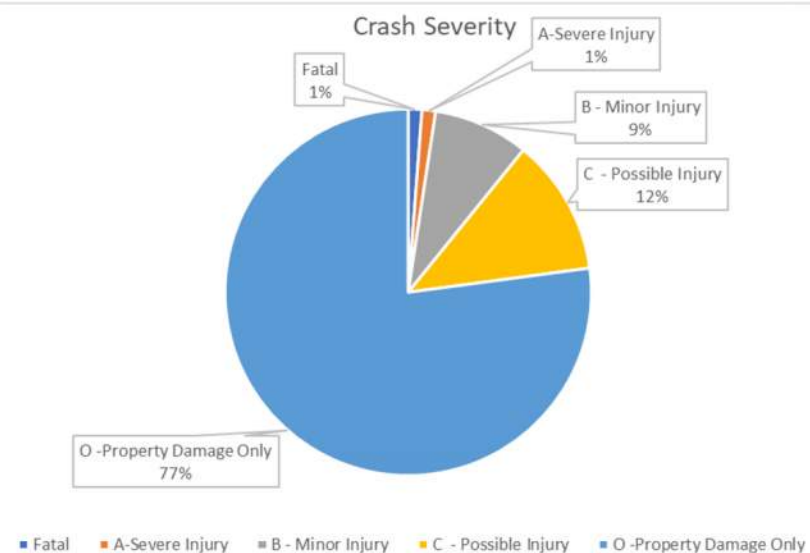
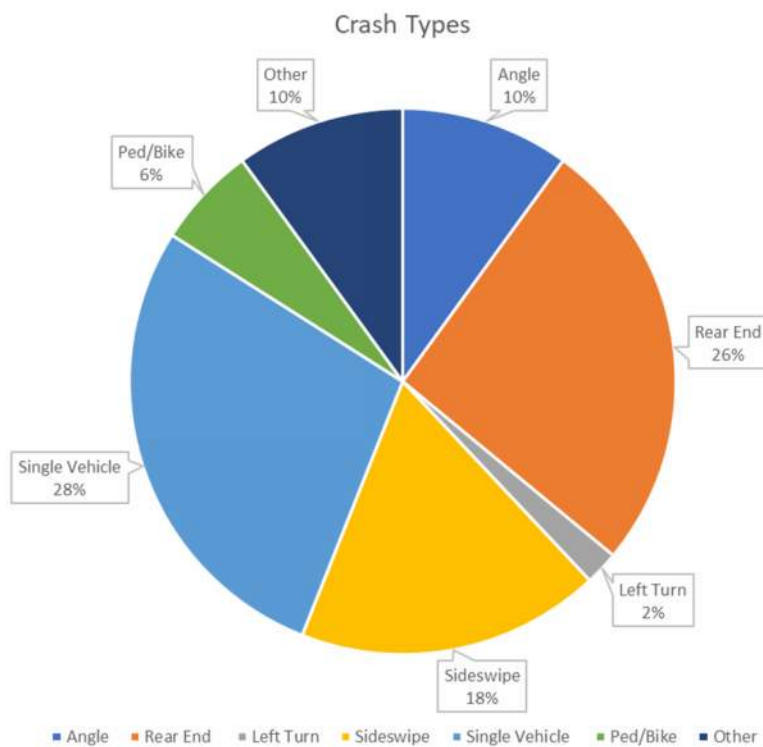
Highest Crash Streets

- Marsh St.
- Division St.
- Belle Ave.
- Pfau St.
- Long St.

A crash index above 1.0 indicates that the street operates outside the expected, normal range.



Crash History – Types and Severity (2020-2024)



Focus Areas

Why these?

- Higher Speeds compared to other neighborhood roads
- More cut through traffic
- Higher number peds crossing
- Higher crash index



Dickinson St./Dane St.

- 4,100 to 7,300 vehicles per day
- 18% cut-through traffic
- 108 pedestrians crossing per day
- Crash Index 1.18

Community Input Themes:

- Bike lanes are desired
- Traffic on Dane does not stop for pedestrians, traffic flying by
- Pedestrian crossing concerns on Dane
- Add a sidewalk on the east side of Dane to complete the sidewalk connection

Dickinson/Dane St. Location Map



Dickinson St./Dane St. – Potential Improvement Options



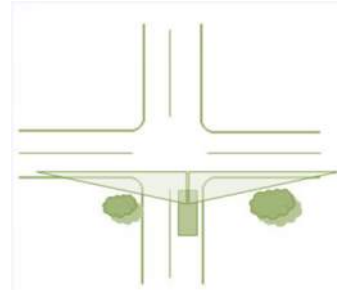
Enhanced crosswalks;
Hi-visibility striping;
Advanced pedestrian
crossing warning signs



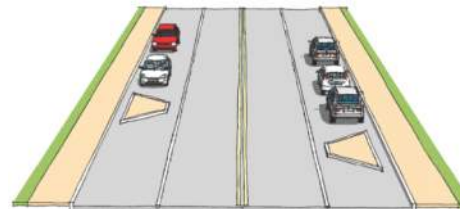
Rectangular Rapid
Flashing Beacon (RRFB)



Fill in missing sidewalk
to reduce crossing
needs



Improve intersection sight
distance by reviewing and
trimming vegetation at
corners of all side streets
and near crosswalks



Add white stripe to
define parking, narrow
travel lanes. Could
include bump-outs at
corners. Striped or raised.



Remove on-street parking
on one or both sides of
street to add bike lanes.



Dickinson St. /Dane St.

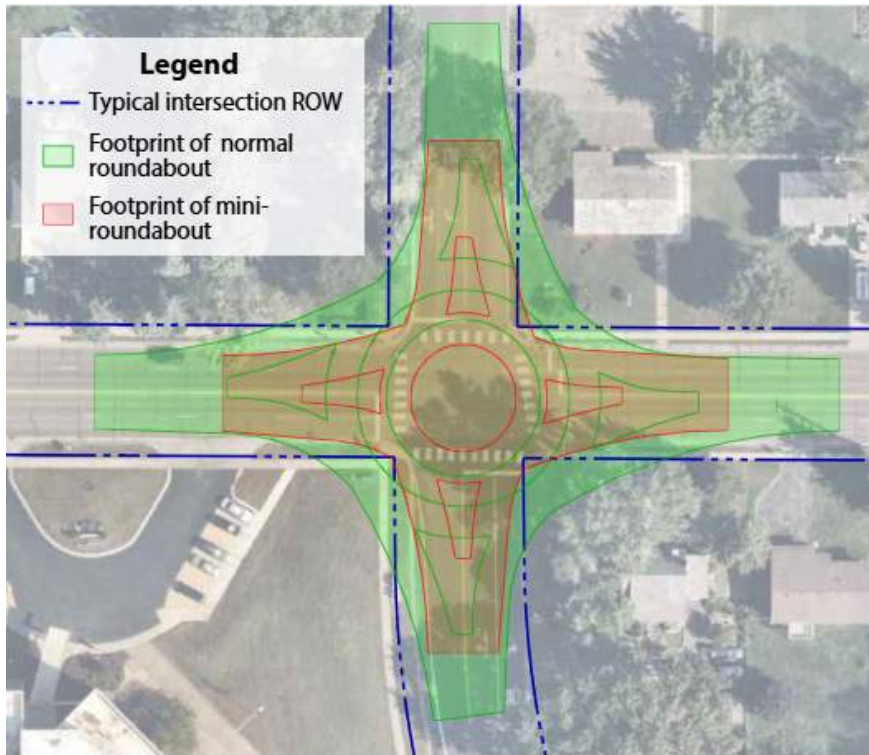
LEGEND

- Add White Parking Stripe, Narrow Travel Lanes and Bike Lanes (optional)
- Enhanced Crosswalk
- Existing Sidewalk
- Fill in Sidewalk
- ▲ Improve Sight Distance/Trim Vegetation
- Mini Roundabout
- Study Area
- ★ Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Potential Improvement Locations



What is a Mini Roundabout?



Source: MnDOT Local Road Research Board FAQ, 2024



Marsh Street

- 2,400 vehicles per day
- 34 pedestrians crossing per day
- Crash Index 8.78

Community Input Themes:

- Several comments on the Dane/Marsh Intersection. Consider a roundabout.
 - Existing intersection analysis showed PM Peak Hour at Level of Service A
- Improve pedestrian crossings near Mayo Clinic and Mankato Clinic
- Traffic speeds and volumes on Marsh St.

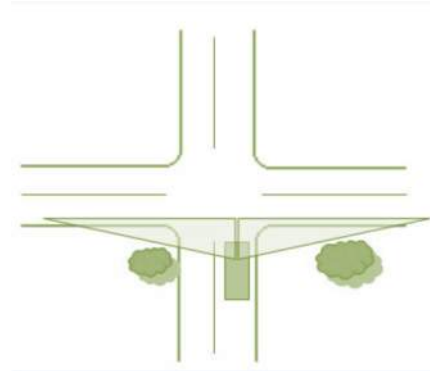
Marsh Street Location Map



Marsh Street - Potential Improvement Options



Enhanced crosswalks;
Hi-visibility striping;
Advanced pedestrian
crossing warning signs;
Add overhead lights at
crosswalk



Improve intersection sight
distance by reviewing and
trimming vegetation at
corners of all side streets
and near crosswalks



Install Speed Feedback Signs



Mini Roundabout



Marsh Street

LEGEND

-  Enhanced Crosswalk
-  Existing Sidewalk
-  Improve Sight Distance/Trim Vegetation
-  Mini Roundabout
-  Study Area
-  Speed Feedback Sign

Potential Improvement Locations



Long Street

- 2,700 vehicles per day
- 47% cut-through traffic
- 66 pedestrians crossing per day
- Crash Index 4.37

Community Input Themes:

- Improve pedestrian crossings at Madison Ave and Emerson Lane
- Speeding traffic concerns
- Drivers Running Belle Ave stop signs at Long St



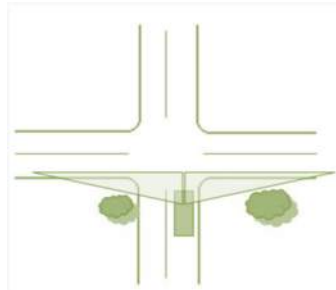
Long Street Location Map



Long Street - Potential Improvement Options



Restrict On-Street parking to improve visibility of ped crossing



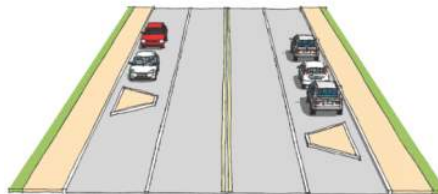
Improve intersection sight distance by reviewing & trimming vegetation at corners of all side streets



Install Speed Feedback Signs



Supplement stop signs with reflective tape or flags. Add Advanced Stop Ahead signs.



Add white stripe to define parking, narrow travel lanes.



Enhanced Crosswalk Hi-Visibility Striping at Ped Crossings



Mini Roundabout



GU0 Speed Table*

**Would require MSAS variance if recommended*



Slide 23

GU0

find different photo

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Long Street

LEGEND

-  Add White Parking Stripe and Narrow Travel Lanes
-  Enhanced Crosswalk
-  Existing Sidewalk
-  Improve Sight Distance/Trim Vegetation
-  Mini Roundabout
-  No Parking Here to Corner
-  Study Area
-  Speed Feedback Sign
-  Enhanced Stop Signs

Potential Improvement Locations



Belle Avenue

- 1,000 to 1,800 vehicles per day
- 9% cut-through traffic
- Crash Rate 11.74

Community Input Themes:

- Concerns with speeding and reckless driving
- Desire all-way stops at Belle Ave./Pfau St. and Belle Ave./Guenther St.



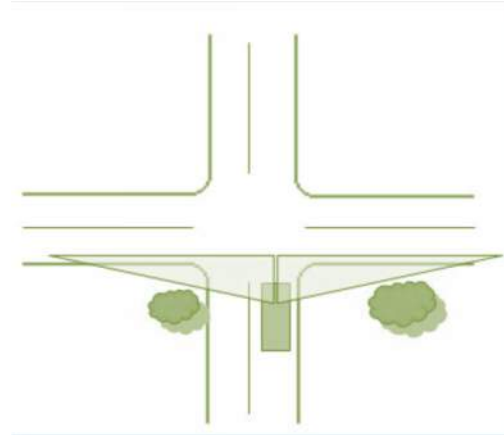
Belle Ave Location Map



Belle Avenue - Potential Improvement Options



Restrict on-street parking to improve visibility of cross-street traffic at intersections



Improve intersection sight distance by reviewing & trimming vegetation at corners of all side streets



Add sidewalk on one side so vehicles and pedestrians don't have to share the same space



Mini Roundabout

Belle Avenue – Why not proposing additional stop signs?

- Warrants not met for stop signs on Belle Ave
- Stop signs are not designed for speed control
- Studies have shown:
 - Stop signs are not effective in controlling or reducing mid-block speeds
 - Instead of slowing down, drivers may speed up between stop signs to make up for “lost” time



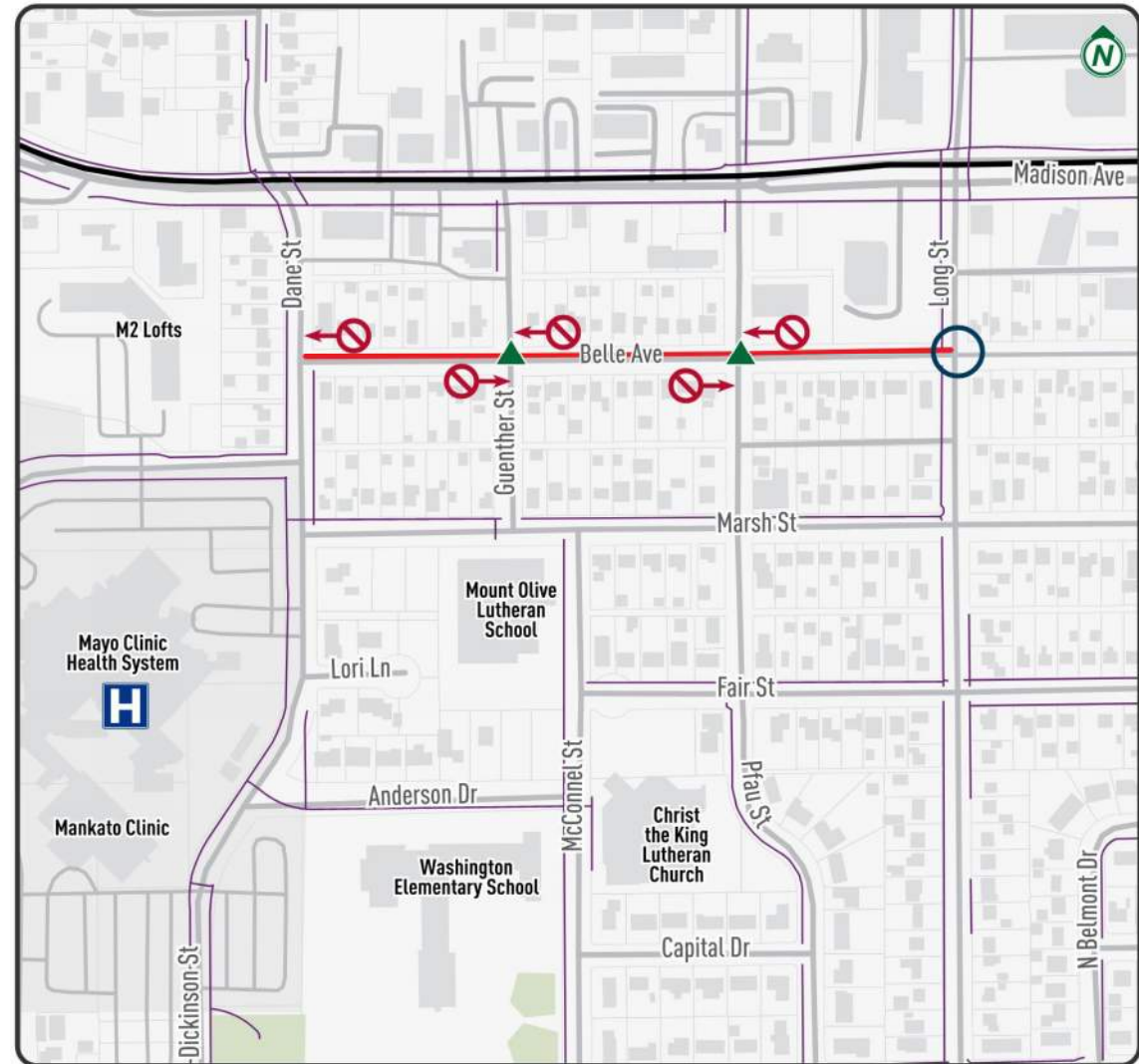
Google: June 2024



Belle Avenue

LEGEND

- Add Sidewalk
- Existing Sidewalk
- ▲ Improve Sight Distance/Trim Vegetation
- Mini Roundabout
- ⊘ No Parking Here to Corner
- Study Area



Next Steps

June-July 2025

- Present Plan to the Planning Commission
- Present Plan to the City Council
- Adopt Plan

