

Highway 47 Work Plan Proposal

Purpose

The City has an adopted a Strategic Plan that includes an initiative to improve the image of key corridors including Highway 47. The City continues to get feedback from industrial, commercial and residential stakeholders that the image and safety along Highway 47 is an issue that needs to be addressed. The City Council first desires to work with the community and stakeholders to identify/ confirm that the consensus of the community is that image and safety issues do indeed exist, and continue to work with the community and stakeholders to identify strategies to address the issue, if needed.

Timeline

Staff will begin work on the Highway 47 Plan in June 2018, with an end date of June 2019. The Highway 47 Plan will be finalized, reviewed, and adopted by the City Council in June 2019. The Plan of Action for Highway 47 is anticipated to be the authorization to being to implement acceptable strategies.

Plan of Action/Key Steps

In order to move from discussion to action, this Plan of Action is offered as a guide to complete the desired initiatives in a reasonable timeframe (approximately 1 year) and ensure that this remains a high priority for the community.

1. Authorize Work Plan
2. Collect Background Data and Determine Key Issues/Barriers and Set Goals
3. Develop List of Potential Solutions
4. Implement Strategies

Step 1: Authorize Work Plan

To ensure that all are moving towards a common goal in a manner that meets the needs of policy makers, a work plan is first developed to hold the project team accountable for completing key tasks at agreed upon time frames.

Authorization of the Work Plan is planned for May 22, 2018.

Step 2: Collect Background Data and Determine Key Issues

The Strategic Plan identifies utilizing resident engagement techniques as the first step in identifying a problem and designing strategies. The City Council does not want to suggest strategies, but wants the stakeholders that are impacted by these policy decisions to design said strategies. Resident engagement is planned to be an inclusive process while keeping in mind the desire to move towards action in a reasonable timeframe.

Engagement of stakeholders will be paired with quantitative data gathering to better understand certain metrics related to daily usage, safety, and noise pollution.

This collection and analysis of background data is to be accomplished through the hosting of community workshops, partnership with local entities, and providing online options for community engagement.

Highway 47 Community Workshops

Staff will host two community workshops to help collect background data, determine key issues, and set goals for the corridor.

Meeting #1: Identify major issues and problems along Highway 47; draft a problem statement for the corridor

Meeting #2: Brainstorm ideas to help solve the problems and issues outlined in the first meeting

City staff will advertise workshops the City website, advertisements on Facebook and the Ramsey Resident Guide.

For those unable to attend community workshops, city staff will create opportunities to leave comments or suggestions on an online map. Following community workshops, staff will update the Planning Commission and the City Council on the progress of the plan.

Partnership with Local Entities

City Staff will work with the MnDOT, Anoka County, the Ramsey Police Department, and neighborhood organizations to gather both quantitative (crash data, noise levels, traffic levels, etc.) and qualitative data (image of corridor, desired improvements, etc.). Staff will also attempt to work with local businesses along Highway 47, specifically those at the 167/47 Node.

Step 3: Develop List of Potential Solutions

Staff will host one community workshops to develop a list of solutions and policies for the corridor.

Meeting #3: Choose ideas brainstormed in meeting 2 to solve problems identified in meeting 1

Staff will research best practices and develop policies to include in the plan based upon the solutions identified in the community workshop. Staff wants to ensure strategies are developed through community engagement and outreach.

Step 4: Plan Development

Staff will develop the final plan including policies, strategies, and specific goals for the corridor based upon the background research and community workshops. Details will not be known until strategies are developed. Staff will review the plan draft with the Planning Commission, Economic Development Association, and City Council. Ultimately, the City Council will approve the plan.