

Moving Forward Together

Using Non-Traditional Engagement Strategies to Engage Community Leaders and Project Skeptics




CH 21 Downtown Prior Lake Improvements

Who are we?



Chris Chromy, P.E., PTOE
Principal Transportation Engineer
Work Group Leader



Jim Harbaugh, PLA, ASLA
Principal Landscape Architect
Work Group Leader





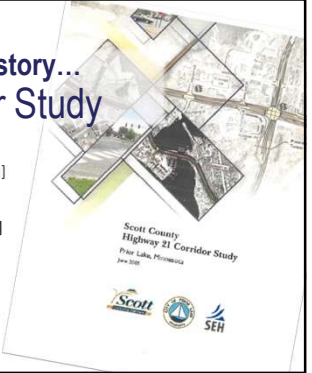
What is our project?

- Important local and regional intersections in close proximity (TH13/CH21 & CH 21/Main Ave)
- 90 seconds of delay during peak hours
- Delays exceeding 160 seconds expected with no changes
- Safety concerns that come with congestion

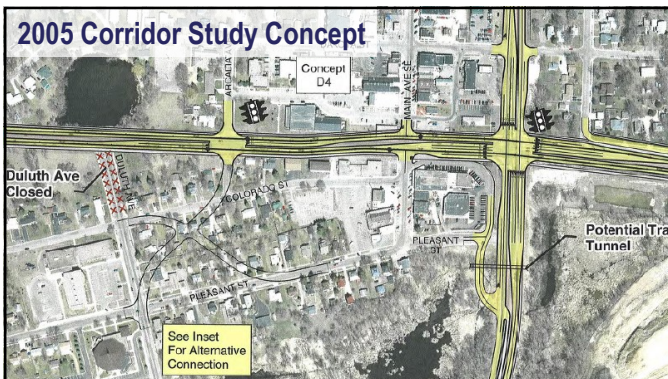
There is a lot of project history... 2005 CH 21 Corridor Study

"...Initiated this study to address existing and future safety and operational issues on [CH 21] in Prior Lake..."

"...[The conflict between mobility and access] became the single most important issue addressed within the study area. Of specific concern is the desire to improve safety and traffic operations along CH 21 while maintaining a reasonable level of accessibility to Prior Lake's central business district."



2005 Corridor Study Concept



Duluth Ave Closed

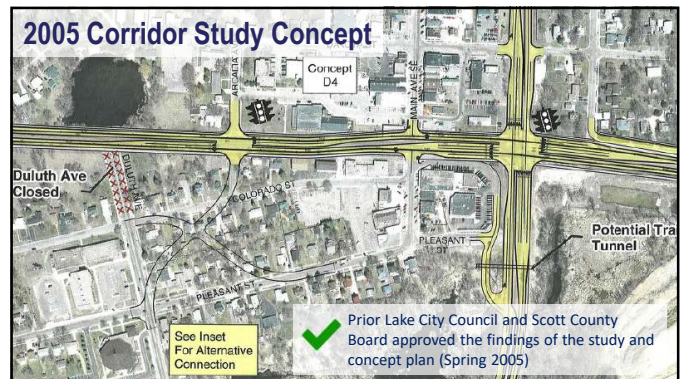
Concept D4

Pleasant St

Potential Tra Tunnel

See Inset For Alternative Connection

2005 Corridor Study Concept



Duluth Ave Closed

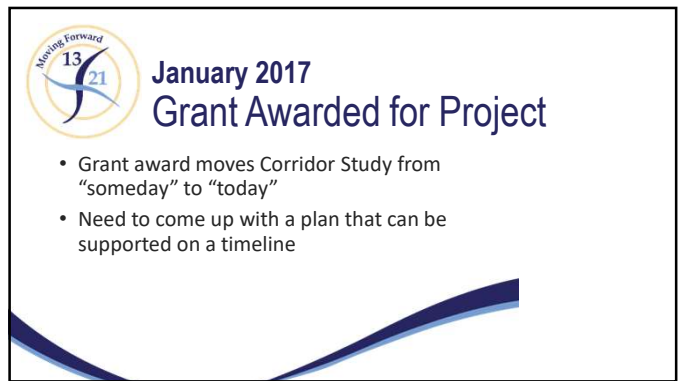
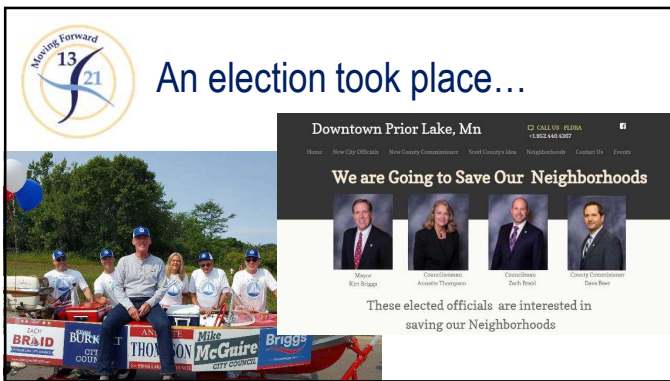
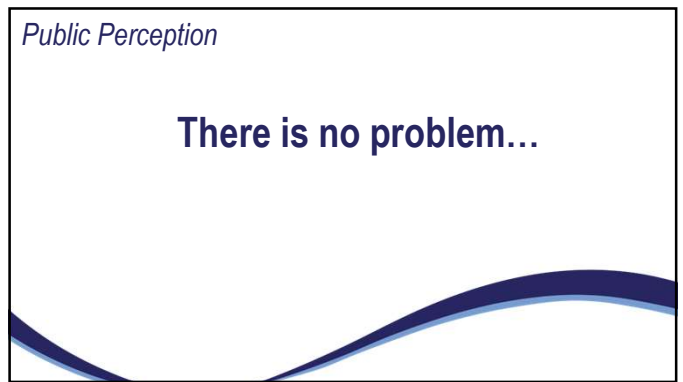
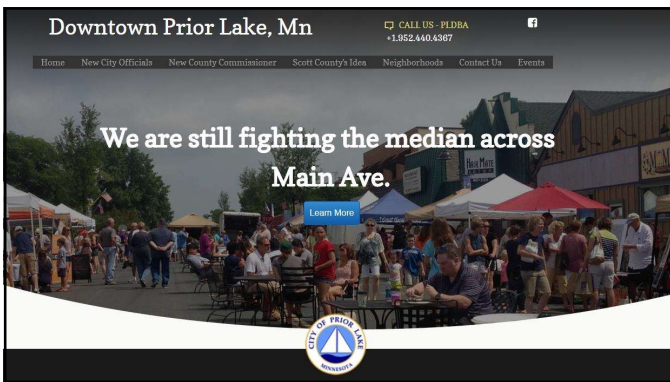
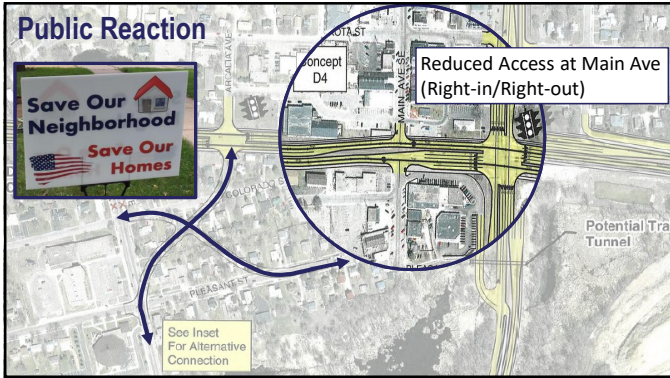
Concept D4

Pleasant St

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✓ Prior Lake City Council and Scott County Board approved the findings of the study and concept plan (Spring 2005)



...This required us to take a
fresh approach

Which is where our story begins.



John does not support our project.

"Trojans, do not trust this horse," admonished Virgil in the Aeneid. "Whatever it is, I'm afraid of Greeks, even those bearing gifts."



Prior Lake American – published February 19, 2017

John does not support our project.

"Prior Lake elected officials should heed Virgil's warning. Scott County was just awarded a "gift" of \$4.9 million in federal money toward a \$6.2 million project to rebuild the County Road 21-Highway 13 interchange in downtown Prior Lake — no doubt a cause for celebration among county officials who've been relentless in their efforts to close Main Avenue at 21, cut the downtown in two and destroy Prior Lake's only historic neighborhood..."


We'll hear a lot of talk about consensus and collaboration and coming to compromise and getting to "yes." That's always a desirable outcome, but this isn't about "Kumbaya." It's about hard bargaining and negotiating an agreement with the county for the 21-13 project that is in the best interests of downtown businesses and adjoining neighborhoods — even if it means withholding municipal consent to get there."



Prior Lake American – published February 19, 2017

Neither do his friends.

...the city and the county had plans to close Main Avenue at Highway 21 and build a new bypass route for Highway 21 through our neighborhood...**The neighborhood and downtown businesses rallied and fought back. We picketed city hall and, best of all, won.** The plan was dropped, but it hasn't completely gone away...



Prior Lake American – published July 8, 2017

John Doe doesn't have a lot of trust in his local government.

This gift isn't free. It comes with consequences...county staff will use the funding to run roughshod over objections, as it has before. It has a plan and will push the envelope to have its way.



Prior Lake American - published February 19, 2017

So what are we supposed to do about John and his friends?

This is where the toys come in...



Make Everyone Equally Uncomfortable

Takeaway 1



Build your favorite memory from Prior Lake.
 Translation: What is your connection to this place?

Build your ideal street.
 Translation: What do you value in a place?

Well, what happened?



Road to downtown, not thru downtown.

Ready for positive change – remove uncertainty.

“This is the first meeting I have been to where I felt heard; not only heard, but listened to - I had my questions answered directly.”

John seems to be warming up to the project.

I've always been skeptical of change, but if there is to be change, let it be for the good — and thanks to some fresh thinking by the county board, a newly elected Prior Lake mayor and council, along with some vigorous "persuasion" on the part of downtown businesses and adjoining neighborhoods, there's a new vision for Highways 13-21 and the downtown.

...there's a more open and thoughtful approach... The official arrogance is gone. See for yourself and get involved...

This isn't a token sop to public input. **Policymakers are listening and want to hear from everyone**, because directly, or indirectly, it will help them make important decisions that will impact the future of our community.

Bring along an open mind, but, also, a skeptical attitude. We're not there, yet.



Prior Lake American — excerpts published July 8 & September 16, 2017

If you want me on the landing, have me at the takeoff.

Takeaway
2

And this was just the beginning...

Goals for the CH 21 Downtown Prior Lake Reconstruction Project are to:

- Enhance mobility on all major corridors
- Improve safety for all roadway users
- Provide a comprehensive pedestrian network
- Improve infrastructure compatibility with the natural and human environment
- Develop a financially responsible plan
- Preserve and enrich the character of Downtown Prior Lake

Congestion wasn't going anywhere

14:43.52

[^] Time spent waiting to get through the TH13/CH21 intersection
- Image sent to the Project Team by a community member.

Careful consideration of all viable alternatives

Takeaway
3

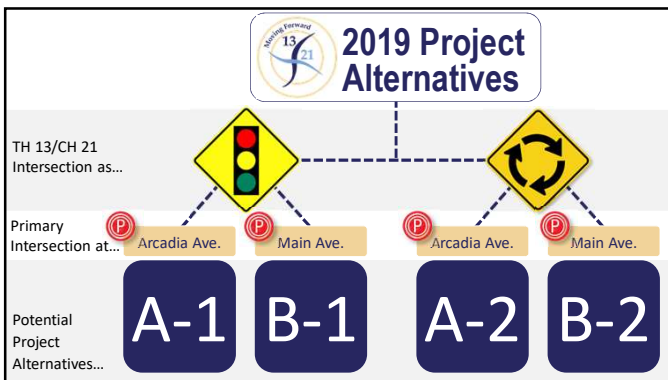
Alternative 1-A
 Alternative 1-R
 Alternative 1-S
 Alternative 2-4
 Alternative 2-R
 Alternative 2-S
 Alternative 2-aR
 Alternative 2-aS
 Alternative 2-bR

Alternative 2-BS

Alternative 3-R
 Alternative 3-S
 Alternative 3-aR
 Alternative 3-aS
 Alternative 4
 Alternative 4-aR
 Alternative 4-aS
 Alternative 5-bR
 Alternative 4-aR modified

Simplify your message

Takeaway
4



A-1	B-1	A-2	B-2
You can expect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35-50% reduction in delay at Hwy 13/CH 21 2-3 hours of congestion Pedestrian-Focused Main Ave Vehicle-Oriented Perimeter of Downtown 	You can expect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35-50% reduction in delay at Hwy 13/CH 21 Vehicle-Oriented Main Avenue Main Ave Signal subordinate to 13 60% increase in delay for Main Avenue 	You can expect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% reduction in delay at Hwy 13/CH 21 More crashes, fewer injuries Pedestrian-Vehicle balance on Main Avenue 35% reduction in delay for Main Avenue 	DISMISSED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Least effective traffic operations Most private property impact


Get your message out to the masses

Takeaway
5

Let's check in with John

I'd been a frequent critic of earlier plans and proposals, more so the process itself, which came with a "take it or leave it" attitude on the part of the city and county...Cars came before people, neighborhoods, and businesses. **That's changed. The difference is night and day.**

...That's small town America at its best. It's what surveys say residents want. It's possible, but it takes investment...and risk. **Before that happens, potential businesses and investors need to know there's going to be a stable traffic pattern and good access for automobiles, bikes and pedestrians.**



Prior Lake American – excerpts published September 30, 2017

Let's check in with John

The city, the county, and consultants...have done some good work and developed a number of options and alternatives...There are pros and cons for each of them... **There are no perfect solutions, but among the options...is a combination that will work and meet the needs of the community for years to come.**

Look at the plans and take the survey. Your input is needed.



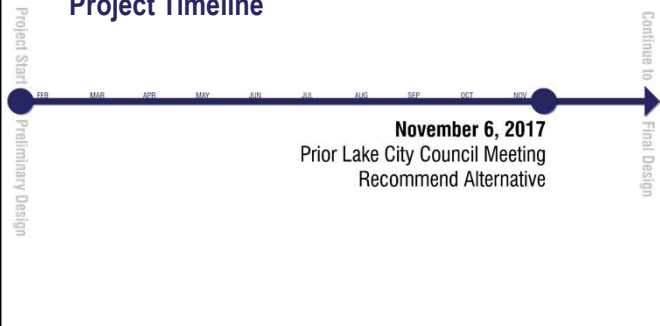
Prior Lake American – excerpts published September 30, 2017



October 12, 2017

We're building project advocates

Project Timeline



Critic Turns Advocate

"Over the spring and summer county and city officials, downtown businesses, neighbors, and engineering consultants from Bolton & Menk and SRF Consulting came together in a series of meetings and workshops to produce the plan the council approved last night. **There was plenty of good public input... Unlike before, county and city officials didn't come up with a plan and tell the community to "take it or leave it..."**

Will it please everyone? Will it resolve all the issues? No, I don't believe anything will. **It's a consensus, and consensus takes compromise.** Like all plans it has some flaws, but I don't believe they're fatal."



Prior Lake American – published November 11, 2017

Critic Turns Advocate

"I've been very critical of previous efforts to work through these issues, but this time the mayor and council have done some good work and deserve our thanks."



Prior Lake American – published November 11, 2017

November 6, 2017

City Council Vote



That's it.

- ### Takeaway Review
- Make everyone equally uncomfortable
 - If you want me on the landing, have me at the takeoff
 - Careful consideration of all viable alternatives
 - Simplify your message
 - Get your message out to the masses

