

179th Access and Circulation Management Plan

Public Listening Session #3, immediately adjacent to NE 179th Street

Date: June 29, 2023

Location: Public Safety Complex – Clark County Sheriff West Precinct, 505 NW 179th Street

Meeting Minutes

- I. Introduction – Ken Lader, Clark County Public Works Director
 - a. Explained the importance of outreach and connecting with the public by listening to questions and concerns regarding this project
 - b. Introduced staff:
 - i. Amber, Gary, Scott, Kevin, Troy, Scott, Kailee, Jose, Haley, Mike
 - ii. Ken gave audience a chance to introduce themselves.
 - c. Defined ground rules
- II. Public comments and questions
 - a. Sewer plans have changed, can you explain the details? Scott presented the design for the 29th roundabout and the sewer and gravity system and possible lift station location. Timing of improvements are tied to unknown future development.
 - b. How many drain fields are being impacted along the corridor? Scott explained properties can hook up to new sewer system if needed, each parcel will have a stub added. No one is forced to hook up unless private septic system is failing.
 - c. Will equipment be parked on private frontage during construction? Ken explained a temporary construction easement will be established. Contractor will have staging areas approved in advance.
 - d. The corridor right of way is 100 ft wide, is that 50 ft from the centerline on each side? Yes, under most conditions, and is measured from the center of right-of-way not always the same as the painted centerline. Scott stated the county can add stakes to show the likely location of the right of way line. There are considerations for grades, for example a wall would need additional width. There will be grading on the east side of 29th due to topography.
 - e. What happens if right of way is needed and the owner won't sell. Ken explained that condemnation would likely occur if Council support, but this is always a last resort after negotiations. Developers cannot build on private property.
 - f. Ken presented the roadway profile and planned cuts and fills. He highlighted challenging locations and where the existing elevation would be matched.
 - g. How long will the 29th intersection be closed during construction? Scott stated 2 construction seasons, but the closure will be less and minimized as much as possible. Ken explained it will be opened as a single lane roundabout which is safer in the short term. The second lane will be opened when needed for vehicle capacity.
 - h. Who will do the construction work? Ken explained the county will have an open competitive bid process. Resident concerns with potholes from construction vehicles.
 - i. Do property owners have input on the construction and easement areas? Ken stated adjacent property owners should provide input to county during preliminary engineering if changes are needed and to the county and the contractor if changes are needed during construction. Residents don't want construction vehicles in their yard.
 - j. Can we have access to the slides? Materials are available on the project website. The slides will be added there soon.

- k. What is limited access for local connections during the roundabout construction mean? Scott stated everyone will have access, but you might have to drive out in a specific direction temporarily.
- l. Can you show the schedule? Ken presented a general schedule, depending on environmental permits and sequencing.
 - i. Widen to add eastbound and westbound turn lanes at 50th Avenue, starting 2024
 - ii. 29th roundabout, planned for 2025-2027
 - iii. Interchange improvements and 179th corridor improvements I-5 east to 29th starting 2028
 - iv. Widening east of 29th, after 2030
- m. Will emergency services be able to drive through 29th during construction? Scott answered no but the County has worked with emergency service providers to ensure the area on each side is adequately covered during construction.
- n. New developments have started constructing frontage improvements. Are those similar to what will be constructed along the corridor? Yes unless the development paid a fee to defer the improvements to be constructed with the County corridor project.
- o. Did the County consider adding northbound and southbound left turn lanes on 29th before the roundabout. Ken stated modeling showed those turn lanes are not needed until the roundabout is added.
- p. What about property value impacts due to the roadway being closer to the house and removal of trees? If impacts are significant and/or setback requirements can't be met, the County may need to negotiate for acquisition of the property.
- q. How many mature trees will be removed? Ken stated that 90% design plans will allow the County to estimate the number of trees removed. They will provide the information when it's available.
- r. Property on north side of 179th, adjacent to new development. They are frustrated that sellers didn't disclose level of future development and corridor plans. They are appreciative of the County's efforts to share information. The County should consider impacts to existing rural residents that want to preserve the rural setting. Local farming should be supported. How can we integrate this concern with future development? There are unintended consequences from the urbanization. Property taxes have quadrupled. Amber suggested residents submit letters to Council to express their concerns and ideas regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update that is in progress.
- s. Can outreach materials (notices) be written easy to understand? The website is better. Make it easier for residents to understand what's going on, simple and direct.
- t. Will the roundabout planned at Mill Creek fit with the construction of the new house on the northwest corner? Ken stated the location shown is planning level, future location will be confirmed during design.
- u. What will future lighting be? Ken stated the County doesn't plan to add street lighting along the corridor. Future roundabouts will have lighting. Striped pedestrian crossings will have lighting. Scott explained modern street lighting is directed down to limit impacts to light pollution.
- v. Will federal funding be used? Yes, for most of these project.
- w. Ken stated street section includes a 10 ft wide multiuse path on each side that is separated from the vehicle lanes with landscaping. The roundabouts will include marked crossings for the paths.
- x. Will the roundabout have a center area that can be driven over? The roundabouts have a center area that is landscaped and cannot be driven over, but the truck apron in the center is designed to accommodate larger vehicles that need more space to turn. Trucks will over-track their trailers onto this apron. Resident is concerned that non-truck traffic will drive through the middle. Driving over and through the middle will not be possible.

- y. Gary explained that future roadways are planned to have bike lanes provided as part of the standard cross-section.
- z. Will there be sound barrier fencing? Ken explained there will be a sound analysis for 15th to 29th that will determine if it's needed. The County will install it if a need is shown. The results can be shared with the public.
- aa. Why don't we build the path on only one side to have a small right of way impact? Ken and Reah stated we want to provide safe and comfortable facilities for walking and biking. With a path on one side, we might encourage crossings at unprotected/unmarked locations or encourage pedestrians and cyclists to travel in the vehicle lane.
- bb. Will mailbox locations be changed with the corridor plan? Today some neighborhoods have to cross 179th to get their mail and traffic is fast and unsafe. Ken will find an answer.
- cc. If a driveway is taken out by the corridor construction, can we move it? Ken answered the County will ensure each property retains access. During design, the best location for each driveway will be determined and coordinated with the owner.
- dd. Will the roadway have dividers? Scott stated he has heard neighbors don't want to lose the center turn lane. The segment from 15th to 26th will be stripped to allow left turn lanes. Once the a roundabout near 22nd Avenue is needed and constructed, the road will be modified to add a raised median. At that point the "left turn" will require using the roundabouts to do u-turns instead of left turns along the corridor.
- ee. Will the County provide education for how to drive through roundabouts? Ken stated that hasn't been considered yet, but it is needed.
- ff. There are traffic issues at 15th today, westbound traffic turning to 15th stops in the travel lane and blocks traffic. Is there a short-term solution? Ken stated they will look into that. Additional information: our traffic engineering team is preparing to do traffic counts on the location and will be looking at possible split phasing of the signal to alleviate this congestion.
- gg. What will the posted speed be? The design speed is 40 mph, posted at 35 mph. Ken stated more traffic enforcement will be a priority on the corridor.