

North Fish Hatchery Road Reconstruction

Public Meeting #1 Notes

5:30-7:30 PM, August 22, 2018

Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Rd

Sign-ins: 42

Meeting Video

A FACTv recording of this meeting may be found at:

<http://factv.fitchburgwi.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/10387?channel=3>

Presentation

The meeting began with a welcome from Fitchburg Mayor Jason Gonzalez, followed by a presentation of the North Fish Hatchery Road reconstruction project goals, timeline, existing conditions and areas of focus by the consultant team. The consultant team includes KL Engineering as the lead engineering consultant and Urban Assets as the public engagement consultant.

Q&A Discussion Notes:

- Does the project team plan on keeping the current curb and gutter or will it be replaced?
 - A: The curb and gutter will be replaced completely.
- When the road narrows, will there be signs indicating alternative routes?
 - A: There will be a lot of communication about traffic routing before construction begins. The alternative route signage has not been determined.
- Will asphalt or concrete be better in the long run?
 - A: The project team is currently evaluating both options. The long-term cost for both options is very close. Our team is looking at maintenance costs versus upfront costs.
- What will the final road width look like? Will it be wider?
 - A: The final road width will be very similar to the current width. There are specific intersections that are looking to expand. Our team is looking at narrowing medians in order to have more road space.
- The bus lane is in good shape, why would the City change out the curb and gutter?



- A: The project team needs to improve the underlying infrastructure, which makes it hard to save just one lane. It is best practice to do all the work at the same time to keep the pavement consistent.
- Will the drone video be available online?
 - A: We will try to put it online – it is a very large file.
- Will the project team make improvements to pedestrian safety?
 - A: This reconstruction will add pedestrian crosswalks at all traffic signals. Our team will investigate traffic timing to make those crossings safer and more efficient. The project team has not explored any mid-block crossings, but we expect those would be a challenge.
- Can the project team replicate the experience of businesses on Verona Road for this project?
 - A: The project team is using Verona Road outreach effort as an inspiration to follow. We will reach out to Verona road businesses and do our best to replicate those experiences.
- What is going to happen to the pedestrian and bike infrastructure, will it be widened?
 - A: There may be subtle variations, but it will be very similar to the existing footprint. The project team is currently looking at creating a shared use path for pedestrians and bikes.
- What is the current lane width for motor vehicles on Fish Hatchery Road?
 - A: 11 feet.
- Will the Pike Drive extension run simultaneously with this project?
 - A: The Pike Drive extension is predicated on new development, such as the proposed UW credit union. It may not run simultaneous to this project, but the project will install the intersection improvements to accommodate the new roadway.
- Has the project team considered the options to have cars turn both left and right at the High Ridge Trail intersection?
 - A: The project team is evaluating access throughout the corridor. However, since High Ridge Trail is currently un-signalized, the project team is not sure about adding left-bound turning.
- What percentage of this work is going to be done by local or Wisconsin-based companies?
 - A: The project team does not have control over the location of selected companies because this project will be a public bid and lowest bid will be selected.
- How will this road operate with Verona Road when Fish Hatchery Road is narrowed to one lane?
 - A: The bulk of work will occur during 2020 to avoid conflicts with Verona Road, which will be primarily constructed during 2019. The project team understands that there may be some conflict with McKee Road, so our team will stagger elements of construction to avoid potential conflicts.

Headline Exercise

Participants were given a worksheet asking what headline they would most like to see printed in the newspaper following the reconstruction. Participants submitted the following headlines:

- "Fish Hatchery Road is the most beautiful redesign in Wisconsin."
- "Reconstruction allows getting from point A to point B as efficiently as possible."
- "Fish Hatchery project finishes on time with minimal complications."
- "Fish Hatchery Road, wider, much less congested, and pothole free."

Open House Exercise/Group Exercise

Before and after the presentation, participants were given the opportunity to comment on maps of the roadway and individual worksheets. The following comments have been organized by intersection or topic.

(✓ = number of additional times an item was mentioned)

Greenway Cross/Fish Hatchery Road Intersection

- Please work on the signal timing at Greenway Cross, it always seems red when I come through. ✓✓
- Project team should remove the "No Turn on Red" sign for those turning northbound onto Fish Hatchery Road from the eastern side of Greenway Cross. ✓
- There is lots of traffic coming out of nearby businesses, which makes it difficult at Greenway Cross.
- There are backups on the western side of Greenway Cross turning northbound onto FH Road.
- Pavement in this section of Fish Hatchery Road is especially bad.
- Businesses have serious concerns about the access on Greenway Cross going away.
- Project team should ensure that reconstruction runs entirely up to the point where the 2012 roadwork was completed.
- Review the left turns from Greenway Cross onto Fish Hatchery Road, they are very challenging.

Valley View Apartments/Avalon Housing Area

- Look into a mid-block crossing for the apartments to get to BP/Kelley's market. ✓
- It is very difficult to turn left into BP parking lot when Fish Hatchery Road is congested.
- With the construction of UWCU in 2019, make sure the median is redone to allow a safe approach to Avalon and for future UWCU members when it opens in October 2019.

Post Road

- Improve the pedestrian crossing at Post Road, many kids walk from Valley View Apartments to Leopold Elementary.
- Consider allowing trucks to drive on Post Road to Coho Street to Greenway Cross during construction.

Pike Drive

- Extend Pike Drive to Index Road.

Traceway Drive

- Install a traffic signal at Traceway Drive.

Nine Springs Golf Course Box Culvert/Juice Factory

- Provide bicycle and pedestrian access under Fish Hatchery Road through this box culvert. ✓✓
- Review the capacity of this culvert. Water was near the top during Monday's historic rains.
- Does the project team know when will the juice plant be developed?

High Ridge Trail/Breckenridge Court/Fish Hatchery Road

- Restore both left and right turns from High Ridge Trail to Fish Hatchery Road. ✓
- Please improve the pedestrian crossing at High Ridge Trail. ✓
- It is challenging to turn left from Sun Valley Apartments. ✓
- Review left turns out of High Ridge Trail, many vehicles make illegal turns here.
- It is challenging to turn southbound from High Ridge to Fish Hatchery Road during the afternoon.

Cahill Main/Glacier Valley

- Restore both left and right turns from Cahill Main to Fish Hatchery Road.
- Review the traffic that Eagle School creates. Much of it will turn left from Glacier Valley Road to Fish Hatchery Road.

McKee Road

- Review the left turn lanes on to Fish Hatchery Road, there are long backups. ✓✓
- Consider adding a third left turn lane from McKee Road to Fish Hatchery Road.
- Consider a roundabout at McKee Road and Fish Hatchery Road intersection that would allow bikes to use the full lane.
- Extend the median separation that exists further west on McKee Road down to Fish Hatchery Road.
- Please enforce the no turn on red from Fish Hatchery Road to McKee Road.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure (striping, countdown timers, etc.) ✓✓✓✓✓
- Extend or add a multi-use path. ✓
- Add pedestrian crossings at all intersections.
- Review shared bicycle and bus lane, it is scary to use.

Surface Material

- Roadway surface should be asphalt, current concrete surface is very noisy. ✓✓
- Recommend using whichever material is easier to spot repair.

Streetscaping

- Focus on Fish Hatchery Road as a "gateway" to Fitchburg, including signage. ✓
- Add more trees, flowers, and greenery where possible.
- Streetscaping is a waste of money.

Miscellaneous Comments

- New design must accommodate for the future bus rapid transit. ✓✓
- Ensure that there are right and left turns available at all intersections, add lights if necessary. ✓✓
- Review stormwater retention. ✓
- Add traffic calming measures, people are driving too fast.
- Reduce congestion along the road.
- Has the project team considered widening the road to 3 lanes?
- Will the project team address the low spots and springs under the road?

- Consider designating some detour routes given that Verona Road, CTH PD, and FHR will all be under construction at the same time.
- The project team should prepare Fish Hatchery Road for a possible commuter train in the median.
- Businesses have a great concern about access.
- Project team should consider a temporary truck route for businesses.
- Neighbors are concerned that alternate routes during construction will cause motorists to drive through neighborhoods and past schools.

Comment Cards

The following comments were submitted on individual comment cards at the end of the meeting:

- Streetscape should include large canopy trees planted on both curbsides of Fish Hatchery for beautification and reduction of heat generated from asphalt/cement. This would encourage/facilitate used of sidewalks and multi-use paths.
- The successful reconstruction of FH RD would upgrade the infrastructure, improve the aesthetics of the corridor, make the entire span more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, and will be accomplished with as little inconvenience to those living and working and traveling on the corridor.
- For me, a successful reconstruction would accomplish the main objectives without making me want to move from my apartment off of FHR because of the inconvenience.
- I strongly recommend a multi-use path to be constructed on one side of Fish Hatchery. There is no way to construct a bike path on Fish Hatchery road itself that meets standards of safety for either adults or youth. The multi-use path also meets the goal of connecting neighborhoods as well.