

# North Fish Hatchery Road Reconstruction | FAQs

## What will the North Fish Hatchery Road reconstruction project involve?

- Improvements to intersection safety and congestion issues.
- Replacement of deteriorating pavement, curb and gutter.
- Repair of underground infrastructure (water and sanitary).
- Replacement of storm sewer.
- Replacement of deteriorating retaining walls.
- Safer access to existing properties and future development areas.
- New traffic signals and street lighting.
- Upgrades to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and improved transit amenities.
- Upgrades to streetscaping, such as plantings, signage and decorative elements.

## What is the project timeline?

KL Engineering (KL) began preliminary data gathering in March 2018. Planning and design for the reconstruction was completed in November 2019 when the project was re-bid. Construction from Traceway Drive to the Beltline will be completed in 2020. Construction from Brendan Avenue to Traceway Drive will be completed in 2021.

The project was initially envisioned as a 1-year project and was bid in August 2019. Unfortunately, bids from contractors came in higher than anticipated and those bids were rejected. Project components were re-evaluated, and the project was re-bid in November 2019. This changed the project so that no work would begin until the Spring of 2020 and work would continue through 2021.

## What is the project budget?

The cost of construction is estimated at \$22 million dollars. Funding will come from City of Fitchburg Tax Increment Financing (TIF), general tax, Dane County and the City of Madison.

## Will the road be widened?

No, the road will maintain its overall approximate width. Intersections may be widened.

## Will the road be asphalt or concrete?

The City of Fitchburg Common Council voted in favor of asphalt on September 11, 2018 (Resolution R-165-18). This decision was based on construction and long-term maintenance cost considerations. The resolution and accompanying pavement design report are posted on the project website.

## Will the speed limit change?

There are no plans to modify speed limits with the project. While data shows that most drivers currently drive at or above the posted speed limits, lowering the limits on Fish Hatchery Road is not recommended. Artificially low speed limits generally have poor compliance, leading to a wider range of speeds, which can result in more rear end crashes at intersections.

Several features of the reconstruction should lead to lower vehicle speeds and better compliance with posted speeds. These features are narrower travel lanes and medians, two new traffic signals, increased crosswalk and bike/bus lane visibility, and higher-quality streetscaping (plantings, lighting, etc.).



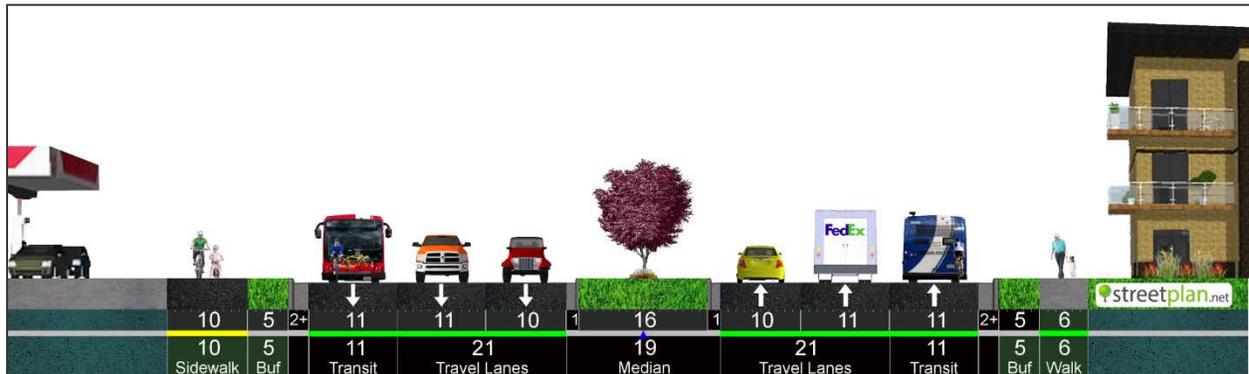
December 2019



### What will the future roadway include?

The future cross section, or division of spaces within the public right-of-way, was approved by the City of Fitchburg Common Council on December 11, 2018. The approved cross section includes:

- Two mixed vehicle travel lanes in each direction.
- Outside lanes (third lanes) in each direction remain dedicated to buses, bikes and right turns. These outside lanes will be more prominently marked with paint and on-street symbols.
- A 10'-wide asphalt path on the west side of the roadway for pedestrians and bicycles.
- A sidewalk on the east side.



### Will bicycle improvements be included?

The dedicated outer bus/bike lane in each direction will remain. The multiuse path for pedestrians and bicyclists on the west side of the road will be extended from High Ridge Trail to Greenway Crossing.

### Will pedestrian improvements be included?

Pedestrian improvements will include ADA-accessible curb ramps and median islands, pedestrian crossing signals at all signalized intersections, and crosswalks at appropriate intersections.

### Does this project accommodate the future potential for bus rapid transit (BRT)?

The existing dedicated transit lanes on North Fish Hatchery Road are expected to be used for BRT if implemented in the future. Additional modifications to transit stops and other infrastructure may also be required in the future with BRT. The project team has coordinated with the City of Madison and Madison Metro BRT team on the design.

For more information about bus rapid transit, you may visit the website for the City of Madison's current East-West BRT Planning Study: [www.MadisonBRT.com](http://www.MadisonBRT.com).

### Who has provided input on this plan?

The public engagement process for this project has involved three public meetings, two adjacent property owner focus groups, one adjacent resident focus group, and one resident focus group organized by the Latino Academy. The project team met monthly from June 2018 through June 2019 with a Community Liaison Team of representatives from nearby neighborhood associations, businesses, organizations, and elected officials.

The approved cross section was reviewed by the City of Fitchburg Board of Public Works, Transportation and Transit Commission, Finance Committee, and Common Council.

A public meeting regarding construction will be held in early 2020.