



Project Background

Washington Street is an important thoroughfare through downtown Naperville. It is the only north-south route in the City that crosses both the BNSF railway tracks and the West Branch of the DuPage River. Being such a vital corridor, Washington Street sees a considerable amount of traffic. In addition to vehicular traffic, Washington Street is host to a variety of small businesses and recreational areas including Fredenhagen Park and the Naperville Riverwalk resulting in significant pedestrian traffic as well.

At the center of downtown Naperville is the Washington Street Bridge. Tens of thousands of vehicles traverse this bridge every single day. The structure, which is located between Aurora Avenue and Chicago Avenue, is more than 40 years old and is in need of replacement due to its deteriorated condition. To extend its life span, the bridge has been load posted to restrict the size of vehicle that can use it. The bridge is still adequate for passenger vehicles.

Work Completed

A preliminary information meeting was held in February of 2017 to introduce the project and seek public input. At that meeting and the subsequent comment period, several comments were received. The preponderance of the commenters were supportive of the proposed improvements. Several questions were also posted that the City of Naperville and the project team have worked to resolve. Below is a summary of those issues:



Public Meeting February 9, 2017

Project Developments



Construction: The City conducted a traffic study to determine the impacts of the Washington Bridge construction. It was determined that to lessen the impacts to the surrounding downtown, the bridge would remain partially open with one lane in each direction maintained during construction. It is estimated that the total construction duration would be up to 11 months.



Roadway Elements: The proposed roadway will be widened from Aurora Avenue to Chicago Avenue to allow for a continuous left turn lane and two through lanes in each direction. An additional southbound right turn lane and eastbound left turn lane at the Aurora/Washington intersection will be added. Sidewalks will be maintained on both sides of future Washington Street.



Aesthetics: Several aesthetic options have been explored for the future Washington Street Bridge. Brick pavers, planters and architectural railings are being considered.



Cost: The cost of the project is currently estimated between 5.6 and 6.0 million dollars.

Project Timeline



Get Involved!

The City of Naperville is hosting multiple public meetings to seek input on the proposed design of the bridge. The first public meeting was held February 9, to introduce the project and seek public input. Using public input from that meeting and additional engineering analysis, a preferred alternative was developed. This preferred alternative will be presented at the project’s second public meeting, to be held September 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. in Lower Level Meeting Room A of the Naperville Municipal Center, 400 S. Eagle St. We hope you will be able to attend this meeting. If you have any questions about the project, please contact:

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