

# County Highway 10, 17, & CR 17B Phase 1 Engagement Summary

## Introduction

The first phase of engagement for the County Highway 10, 17, and County Road 17B intersection improvement project occurred in May through July of 2025. The goal of this first phase was to understand existing conditions and hear where community members see issues or areas of opportunity. Engagement techniques in this phase included an in-person open house, in-person pop-up event, and online engagement activities.

## Who did we hear from?



20 Open House Attendees



78 Pop-Up Attendees



51 Survey Responses



45,000 online advertisement views

## How did we gather feedback?

### Open House

May 28, 2025

In-person information and engagement activities at Oak-Land Middle School

### Pop-Up

July 14, 2025

The project team tabled at the Cimarron Community Farm's free farmers market

### Online

May-June 2025

Online engagement, including an interactive project map

## What themes did we hear?



### Driver Behavior

We heard concerns regarding speeding, particularly along Lake Elmo Avenue. Traffic control improvements were suggested to mitigate illegal driver behavior, such as traffic calming measures, intersection control treatments, vegetation, etc.



### Multimodal Accommodations

We heard a desire for improvements to the existing bike and walking facilities in the area, particularly connections to nearby existing parks and the new Lake Elmo Elementary School location.



### Land Use Changes

With the new school opening next year, we heard concerns about how traffic will operate when the school opens.

## Promotion

To promote the in-person open house and online engagement activities, Washington County sent a postcard to property owners near the corridor, promoted on the county website, and shared on the county social media pages.



### County Highway 10/County Highway 17/County Road 17B Intersection Improvement Project



#### Open House

Washington County, in partnership with the City of Lake Elmo, is planning an improvement project for the intersection of County Highway 10 (10th St N)/County Highway 17 (Lake Elmo Ave N)/County Road 17B (Lake Elmo Ave N).

Join us in-person or online to meet the project team, provide input on existing conditions, and learn about the schedule and next steps for the project.

[www.washingtoncountymn.gov/County10and17](http://www.washingtoncountymn.gov/County10and17)

#### In-Person Open House

**When:** 4 – 6 p.m. | Wednesday, May 28, 2025  
*There will be no formal presentation.*

**Where:** Oak-Land Middle School | 820 Manning Ave N,  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

#### Online Engagement

Visit our online open house anytime on the project website: **May 28— June 18.**

*There will be no formal presentation or discussion during the online engagement. Visit the link to learn more and go through the information anytime before it closes on June 18, 2025.*

Erin Clarkowski | Project Manager  
651-430-4384 | [Erin.Clarkowski@washingtoncountymn.gov](mailto:Erin.Clarkowski@washingtoncountymn.gov)



*Postcard sent to nearby property owners*



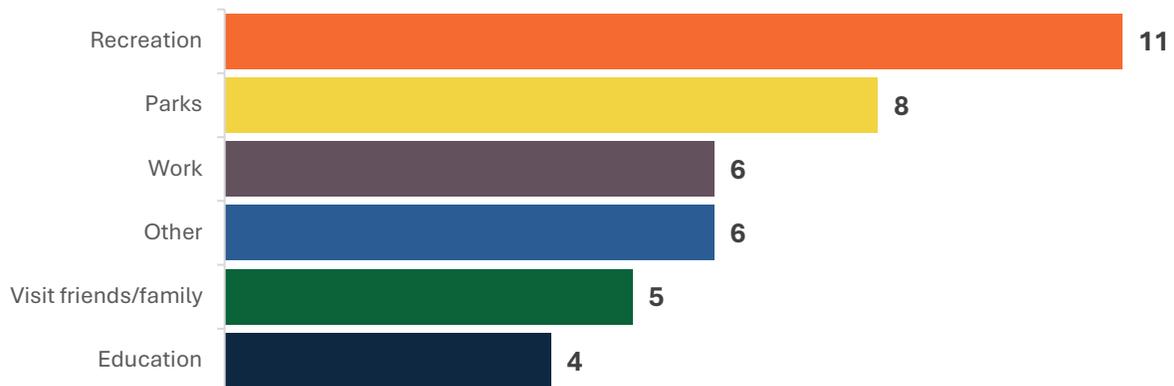


## Travel Patterns Feedback Activity

A sticker exercise was used to gather feedback on three primary travel patterns of the community:

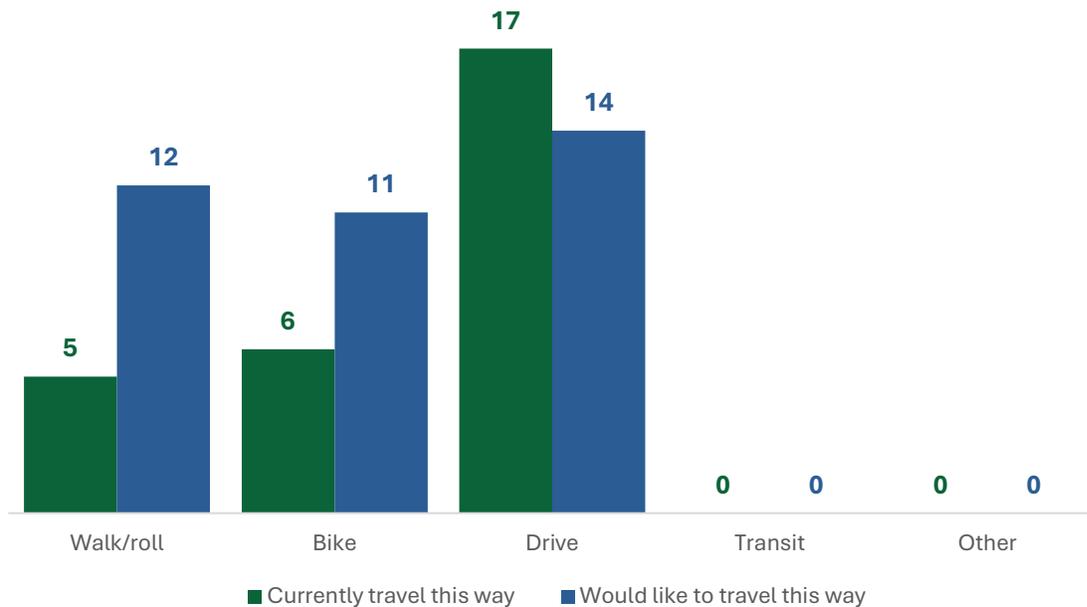
*Where are you typically traveling to or from when in the area?*

**Most respondents utilize the corridor to access recreation, parks, work, or “other” – which includes home and shopping.**



*How do you currently travel in this area? How would you like to travel in the area?*

Most residents currently drive on the corridor, with some walking or biking.



## Interactive Map

A large printout of the corridor study area was available for community members to provide comments on. For a full list of comments please see Appendix A.

## Cimarron Community Farm Pop-Up Event

A pop-up event was held at the Cimarron Community Farm's free farmers market on July 14 from 4-6 p.m. on-site at the local farmer's market. Residents and visitors were invited to chat with project staff, provide feedback on how they currently use and would like to use the corridor, and ask questions.

## Feedback

The responses received from community members at this event were consistent with other findings from Phase 1 engagement activities, and contributed to the themes identified in this document.



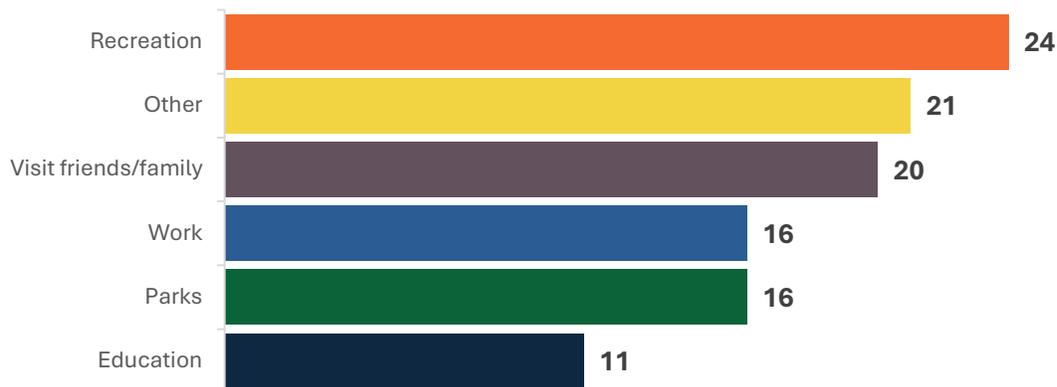
*Cimarron Community Farm Pop-Up*

## Online Engagement

The activities and questions posed at in-person engagement events were also available online. This included an online survey and interactive map. Survey results are detailed below:

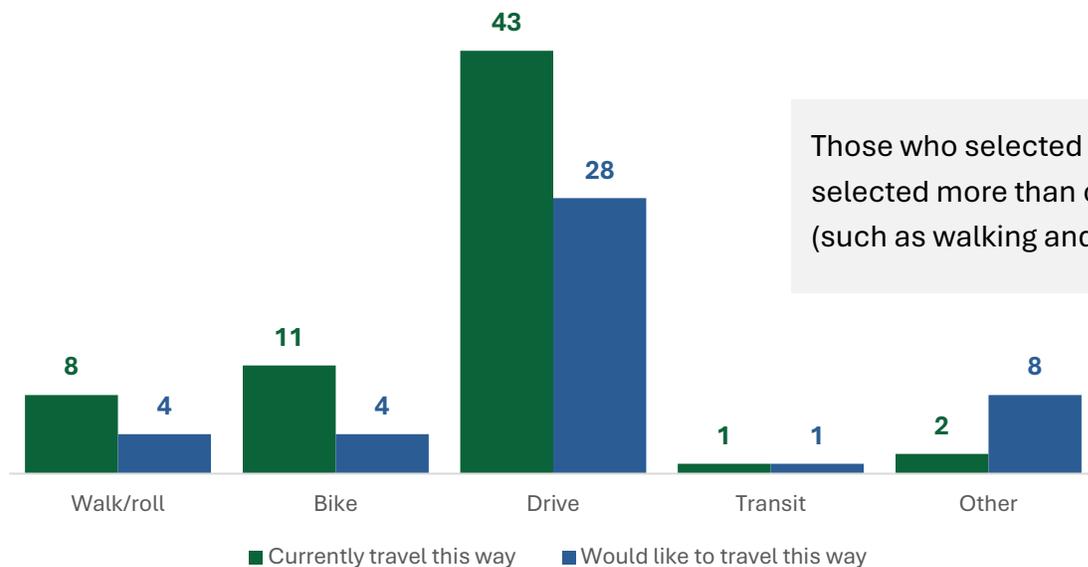
*Where are you typically traveling to or from when in the area?*

**Most respondents utilize the corridor to access recreation, visit friends/family, or “other”**– which includes home and shopping.



*How do you currently travel in this area? How would you like to travel in the area?*

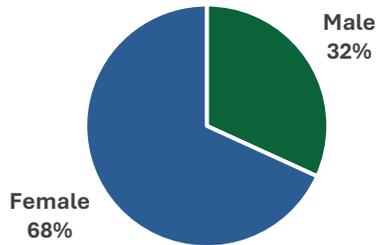
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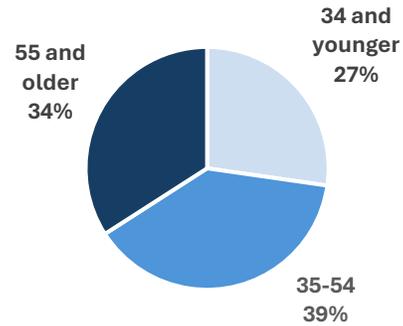
## Demographics

The following demographic questions were included in the online engagement questionnaire, were optional, and are used to help the project team understand who we might not be hearing from.

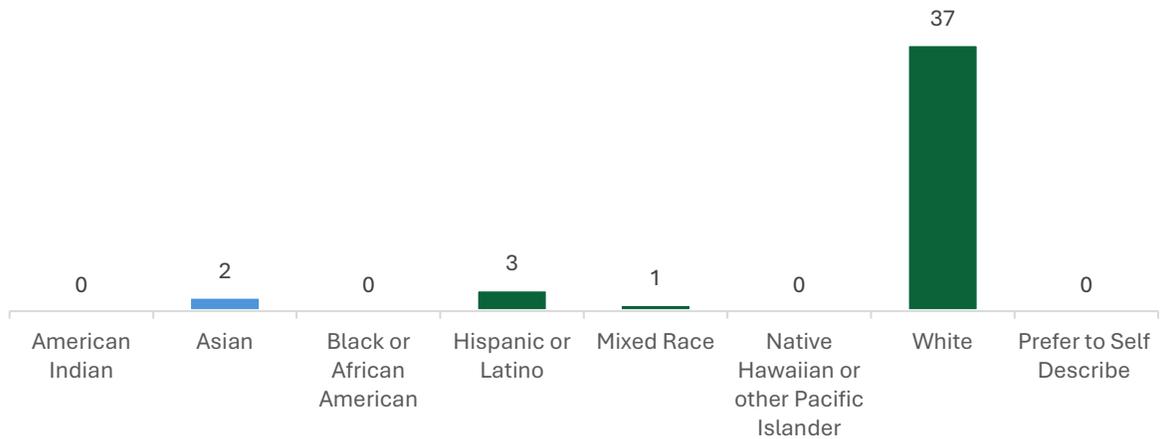
*What is your gender?*



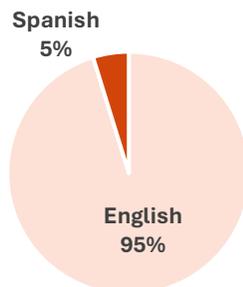
*What is your age?*



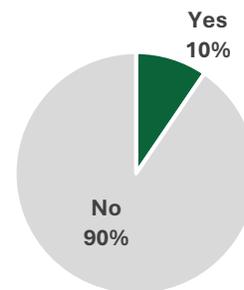
*What is your race/ethnicity?*



*What language is most frequently spoken in your home?*



*Does your household receive public assistance?*



## Appendix A: Full Written Engagement Responses

Below are comments received on the interactive map at the **in-person open house**:

Comment	Location
crosswalks please & bike friendly	10th St.
as a resident our major concern is the road speed on lake elmo ave (17) from 10th north into tar city and stillwater blvd "55 is too fast" for bike and ped traffic	Lake Elmo Ave. N
speed limit! Big concern on lake elmo ave	Lake Elmo Ave. N
there are a significant number of kids walking to school. Its currently difficult to walk or bike through this intersection 10 + 17/17B. I am in favor of roundabouts but they are a challenge to walk/bike through them	10th St. & Lake Elmo Ave. N
I am in favor of roundabouts. I would like to see trails for biking incorporated. This is a retired persons perspective	10th St. & Lake Elmo Ave. N
roundabout - good. Sidewalks - good. Crosswalks - good	10th St. & Lake Elmo Ave. N
school crossing - need safe access @ this intersection	10th St. & Lake Elmo Ave. N
frequent accidents light will help	10th St. & Lake Elmo Ave. N
ask mndot to do a speed study. The speed limit along lake elmo bld needs to be 35 mph its unsafe!	Lake Elmo Ave. N
slow down the speed! Monitor this small hill.	Lake Elmo Ave. N (North of 10th St.)
sight distance to turn left out of the homestead	Lake Elmo Ave. N (North of 10th St.)
speed increases here, causes stop sign problems	
traffic through village is more. Can we push them to manning more?	Lake Elmo Ave. N (North of 10th St.) by elementary school
speed limits in the village and along the lake to redirect traffic along manning 5th street & not lined up w/ 3rd	10th St. to Manning Ave. N 5th St. & 3rd (east and west) of Lake Elmo Ave. N (south of 10th St.)
affect of increased traffic on access to 5th street and other divisions of housing on lake elmo blvd	5th St. off Lake Elmo Ave. N (south of 10th St.)

Below are comments received through the **online interactive map**:

Comment	Location
Homestead is incorrectly labeled as 12 <sup>th</sup> St, but it is 14 <sup>th</sup> St N.	Homestead
Community needs some type of multimodal access along county 10	General
Needed to remove bypass lane to 14 <sup>th</sup> and add a turn lane. Bus traffic will back up into bypass lane and cause rear end collisions	14 <sup>th</sup> Bypass Lane
Issues due to lack of left turn lanes, entrance to Cimarron offset across 10 <sup>th</sup> /slightly west; Leeward not highly visible. Rear ended heading east stopping to take left. Onto Leeward years ago;Most residents turn in on LaVerne even challenging.	Cimarron Entrance (North)
For over 150 years, my family has lived on our property in Lake Elmo, witnessing the area’s growth from modest to, recently, exponential due to the Metropolitan Council’s mandates. While I understand the need for growth, the lack of thoughtful planning has created significant safety concerns, particularly along Lake Elmo Avenue North (County Road 17). The ¾-mile stretch of Lake Elmo Avenue North adjacent to Lake Elmo, with a speed limit of 45 MPH, poses a serious risk to residents and visitors.	General
Please consider the impact of cars backing up on 10 <sup>th</sup> during school drop-off and pick up. With a two lane road, the traffic jam will make it impossible for others to travel where they need to go	10 <sup>th</sup> Street

## Appendix B: Existing Condition Boards

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Please see the following pages for the materials presented at the Open House and available online.

# Welcome to the County Highway 10, 17, and County Road 17B Open House #1

Visit the project website:  
[washingtoncountymn.gov/County10and17](http://washingtoncountymn.gov/County10and17)



SCAN ME  
←

# About the project

## Project Information

The City of Lake Elmo is experiencing significant community growth. Due to the unique and evolving community changes, **Washington County is initiating an intersection project to consider transportation improvements for the focus area as shown to the right.**

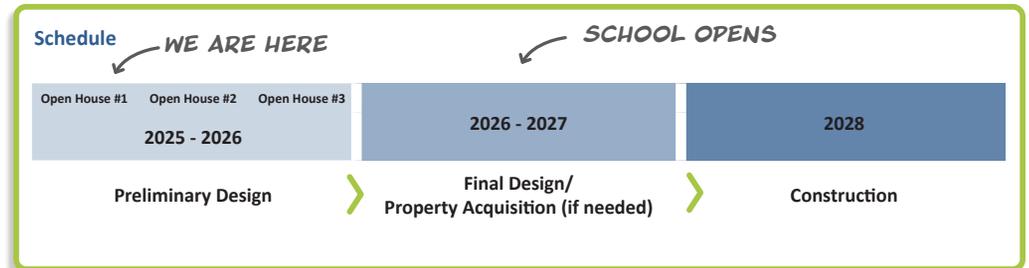
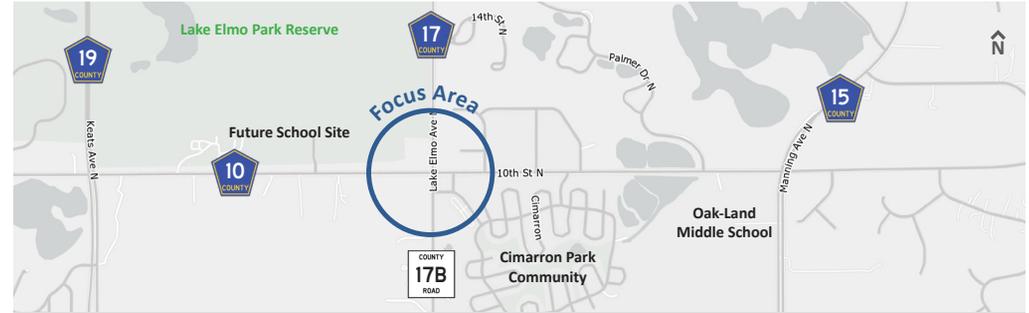
Based on community engagement and detailed analysis, the project team will evaluate responsible long-term solutions for the transportation system at the intersection of County Highways 10 and 17 and County Road 17B. Any recommended improvements will take into account the current transportation usage and anticipated future needs as development and re-development continue to occur in this part of the County. This project is a cooperative effort between Washington County, the City of Lake Elmo, and the Valley Branch Watershed District, with Washington County serving as the lead agency.

This open house event, and respective online engagement, are the first touchpoint for project staff to receive input from community members regarding issues and opportunities within the focus area. We are excited to hear your perspectives at this early stage of the project.

Intended outcomes of this project include:

- Seek input from the public to supplement the project team's technical analysis and ultimately inform project considerations.
- Analyze existing traffic data, crash history, current and anticipated future access, and maintenance needs for the focus area.
- Evaluate multimodal improvements that align with the Washington County Bike & Pedestrian Plan.
- Identify community-supported transportation improvements for the intersection.

## Project Area



## STAY IN TOUCH

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City Engineer  
City of Lake Elmo  
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## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

For more information and to sign up for project updates, visit the project website:  
[washingtoncountymn.gov/County10and17](http://washingtoncountymn.gov/County10and17)  
(or scan the QR code)

Online engagement will be available online following the Open House



SCAN ME

# Please provide your input

Place a sticker on your answer - color does not matter! Select all that apply.

Where are you typically traveling to or from when in the area?

Work
Education
Recreation
Visit friends/family
Parks
Other

Selected "Other"? Please specify here

How do you currently travel in this area?

Walk/Roll 
Bike 
Drive 
Transit 
Other

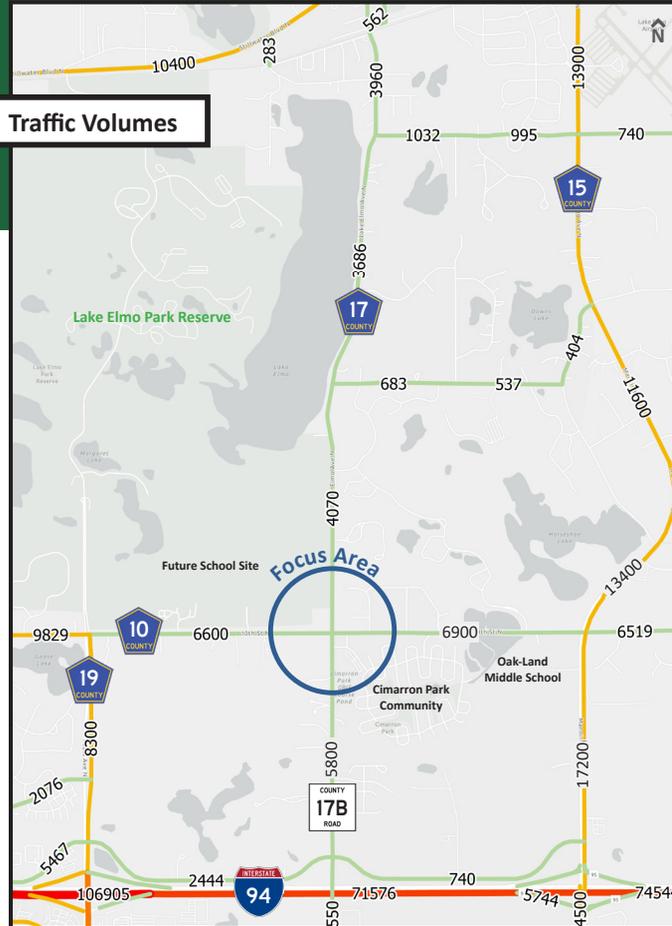
How would you like to travel in the area?

Walk/Roll 
Bike 
Drive 
Transit 
Other

# Traffic Data

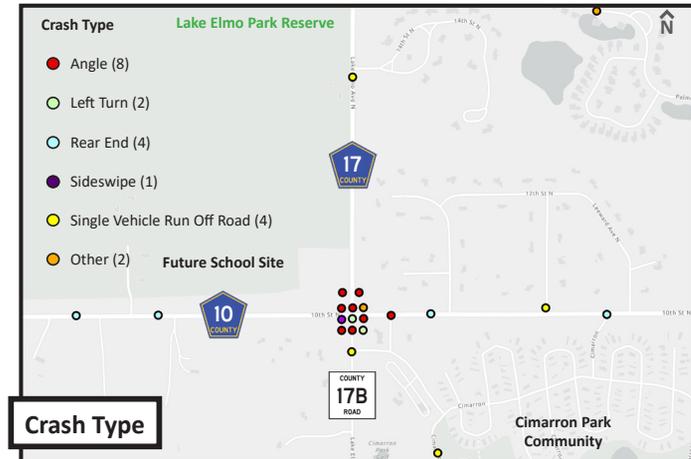
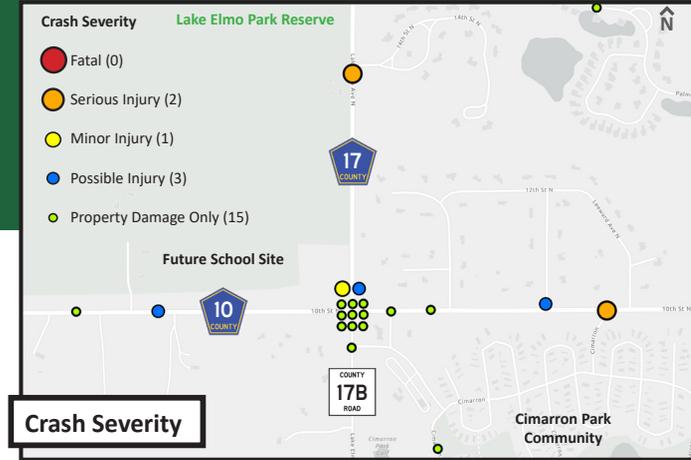
## Existing Traffic Volumes

Daily traffic on County Highway 10 ranges from about 4,500 to 10,000 vehicles per day, with higher volumes occurring to the west. County Highway 17 and County Road 17B traffic ranges from about 3,500 to 4,000 in the study area.



## Reported Crash History

Within the last 5 years (2020-2024) there have been a total of 21 accidents in the project area. No fatalities have occurred, but 2 serious, 1 minor, and 3 possible injuries occurred. Most of these were "Angle" type crashes. An "Angle" crash means two vehicles impact each other at an angle (not head-on or rear-end).



Questions?  
Comments?  
Add a post it!

# Community Context

## New Traffic Signals

Stillwater Area Public Schools (ISD 834) has construction underway to relocate Lake Elmo Elementary School to a new site at the intersection of County Highways 10, 17, and County Road 17B. ISD 834 plans to transition students to the new school for the 2026-2027 school year. The new school will create two new access points to the County system:

- A: Main access, including student drop-off/pick-up**
- B: Bus access off of County Highway 17**



As a part of the site development approval process, Washington County has partnered with the City of Lake Elmo to evaluate the short term transportation needs in order for the transportation system to operate safely with the new access points. Two new traffic signal systems will be installed along County Highway 10 and new turn lanes will be constructed along County Highway 17 to manage school traffic. **This project will determine if the wooden pole signal system (see map above) at the intersection of County Highways 10, 17 and County Road 17B will adequately meet the long-term needs of the community.** More information about ISD 834's Lake Elmo Elementary School construction can be found on the School District's website.

## Central Greenway Regional Trail

The Central Greenway Regional Trail is an existing trail that will connect Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park to the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The County's Trail Master Plan includes extension of this trail north to Big Marine Park Reserve. This proposed extension is in alignment with the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Master Plan and the Washington County Comprehensive Plan.

This trail will provide an essential multimodal connection along CSAH 19 (Keats Avenue).

Outside of the regional trail alignment, the County has established multimodal goals and guidance from their 2018 Bike and Pedestrian Plan (MOVE).



Plan Adopted 2019

## Cimarron Community

Cimarron is a privately owned community near the project focus area. With over 600 homes on site, this community will likely be frequent users of the project intersection.

### Youth Programming

The Family Means organization provides youth programming in the youth center on site. This includes the Kidspace program for K-5th graders, the Ready To Be teen program, and the Youth Bicycle Program.



### Cimarron Community Farm

Since 2010, Cimarron Community Farm has been a source of fresh food and community connections for the Cimarron Park neighborhood. In the nearly 10 years of growing, the farm has connected with over 200 community members (both volunteers and youth program participants) and grown over 12,000 pounds of produce.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## How will the project improvements be determined?

As of this spring, Washington County, in partnership with the City of Lake Elmo, has hired a qualified engineering design consultant to perform data collection and technical analysis for the focus area. A project team of various agency stakeholders was created, who have been meeting regularly to review the existing conditions. Washington County's approach for engaging the public on transportation projects includes three phases: an initial listening session, sharing options, and soliciting feedback on the recommended option to move forward. The Open House #1 event, respective online engagement, and an upcoming "pop-up" event in the community will provide additional insight to inform the first phase of engagement.

Our project team will perform additional technical analysis after the first phase of public engagement and produce some intentional concept options for Open House #2, which have been vetted technically and correspond to the project objectives. The feedback received from the public during the second phase of engagement will provide our project team additional perspectives to consider when recommending an option to move forward. Ultimately, elected officials must approve the transportation project in order for the recommended option to be constructed.

## Will Right-of-Way be purchased with this project?

As part of the preliminary design phase, the project team will evaluate the potential need for acquisition of right-of-way in order to construct the project vision. During the future design phase of project development, Washington County will identify construction limits that help to identify whether easements or new right-of-way is needed. In cases where private property beyond the existing right-of-way is required, the county will go through the process to acquire property by:

- Contacting Property Owners to review existing property conditions
- Hiring an independent appraiser to determine the value of the property
  - Property Owners will receive a copy of the appraisal
  - Property Owners are also entitled to obtain a separate appraisal

Making an offer to purchase the necessary property for the full amount that has been determined as just compensation from the appraisal(s) and providing a reasonable length of time to consider the offer (no less than 60 days).

## When will construction take place?

Construction of the project improvements is anticipated in 2028.

## Have another question?



Ask a project team member or submit as part of the online engagement opportunity



**Legend:**

- Traffic Signal
- Pedestrian Facilities
- Parcel Border
- Municipal Border
- Parks
- Schools