

20 Inform - Citizen Advisory Committee Involve - Public Meetings

CASE STUDY TITLE:

Trunk Highway 23 Task Force, Pine County, Minnesota

SCOPE: Corridor Planning



PROBLEM STATEMENT AND LOCATION DESCRIPTION:

- Local citizens and legislators were concerned about the condition of a 20-mile segment of Trunk Highway 23 from Askov to Nickerson in Pine County, Minnesota.
- A public information meeting was held to discuss concerns about the condition of the roadway. A large number of concerned citizens attended the meeting. Mn/DOT did not have a plan to address the condition of the road.
- In order to involve the citizens, a task force was formed of local citizens with Mn/DOT technical support. The task force was charged with identifying problems and prioritizing solutions to improve the roadway within a strict budget. The project manager met with the task force on a monthly basis for several months before a plan was developed. The final plan was a written, detailed report identifying fix options and costs.
- From this plan, a two-phase solution arose that was implemented within a period of three years. The solution addressed specific safety concerns, failed culverts, and the roadway surface.

LIST ALL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TECHNIQUES USED, DESCRIBING STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE:

TECHNIQUE	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
1. Public Information Meeting	* MnDOT acknowledges public concerns	
2. Task Force	* Identifies Public Priorities * Educate Public about Mn/DOT Processes * Gets Public Involved	* Time consuming

WAS THIS TECHNIQUE EFFECTIVE IN REACHING MINORITY AND/OR LOW-INCOME CITIZENS?

NO. The public involvement technique used was intended to deal with the citizens who were concerned about the condition of the roadway and had asked Mn/DOT how they could have an impact in the planning efforts.

OUTCOME OF ACTIVITY, INDICATING HOW PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECISION OR PROJECT RESULT:

The entire project will be completed within a budget that is a fraction of that for reconstruction and will provide a solution with a long-term service life.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Name: Jack Salmela, Project Manager
Address: Mn/DOT District 1
1123 Mesaba Ave.
Duluth, MN 55792
Telephone: (218) 723-4960
Fax: (218) 723-4774
E-mail: duane.hill@dot.state.mn.us,
jack.salmela@dot.state.mn.us