US-12 Improvement Project

Public Meeting #2
The Plan
I. Welcome from Rep. Peterson
II. Introductions
III. Problems to Solve
IV. The Plan
V. The Process So Far
VI. Next Steps
Introductions

- Stakeholder Group includes:
  - Representative Peterson
  - County Commissioner Jefferson
  - County Commissioner Jamnick
  - Township Officials
  - Neighborhood Representatives
    - West Willow Neighborhood
    - Thurston Neighborhood
    - Oaklawn/Hawthorn Neighborhood
  - MDOT
  - Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
  - American Center for Mobility
  - WCRC
PROBLEMS TO SOLVE
Problems to Solve

1. Improve **safety** for drivers and pedestrians
2. Improve **access** to West Willow
3. **Beautify** the US-12 corridor
Safety

• Safety is the #1 concern

• What we have heard:
  – Slow down speeds off I-94
  – Help drivers understand they are driving near a neighborhood
  – Make it safer for pedestrians to get from West Willow to intersection of M-17 and Ford Blvd
  – Improve safety on US-12 east of Wiard Rd
• What we have heard:
  – Provide better access for West Willow residents
    • Discourage cut-through traffic in West Willow
    • Reduce traffic congestion on Dorset Ave
    • Help pedestrians get across US-12 safely
What we have heard:

– US-12 should be a welcoming gateway to the community and the American Center for Mobility
THE PLAN
The Plan

• Includes:
  – Street lighting from I-94 to county line
  – Landscaping, beautification and improved signage
  – Different access to West Willow
The Plan

• Includes (cont.):
  – Create a narrower boulevard off I-94
  – Simplify the intersection of M-17 and US-12
  – Remove bridge
  – Improve pedestrian crossing from West Willow to the intersection of M-17 and Ford Blvd
Street Lighting

• Lights on US-12 from the I-94 ramps to the county line
• To be designed and constructed by DTE
• Gateway signs for neighborhood and for the American Center for Mobility

• Landscaping along the corridor will be designed in early 2020 with stakeholder input
Landscaping and Sign Examples
Access to West Willow

- Adds access from eastbound US-12 to Service Dr
- Removes access from US-12 to Gates Ave
- Includes right-turn lanes from US-12 into West Willow
- Utilizes “Michigan left” to discourage cut-through traffic in the neighborhoods
• Remove bridge and ramp
• Will eliminate the free flow movement onto eastbound US-12
M-17 and US-12 Intersection

• Smooth out curve
• Intersection will T directly into US-12
• Eliminates direct access from M-17 to Dorset Ave
Boulevard

• Narrows median to ~70 ft near the intersection of US-12 and M-17
  – Similar to the width of parts of US-12 in Canton

• Curve is designed to slow down traffic from I-94 (speed limit will still be 55 mph)
Boulevard Example
Pedestrian Safety

- Crossing at intersection of M-17 and US-12
- Traffic signals
- Pedestrians enter/exit West Willow at Fox Ave
THE PROCESS SO FAR
$8 million from MDOT’s budget
Must be spent on MDOT roads in this area
WCRC is helping Ypsilanti Township and MDOT to administer the project
Project will be permitted by MDOT
Construction in 2020/2021
Community Input

• Stakeholder Brainstorming Session: Oct. 4
  – Approx. 25 attendees
  – Small group breakouts
• Public Meeting #1: Oct. 29
  – Approx. 50 attendees
  – Reviewed 3 options for corridor
  – Received verbal and written feedback
Community Input

• Online Comments: Oct. 30 – Nov. 7
  – Approx. 80 submissions
• WCRC Social Media Posting
  – Reached approx. 7,000 people
Community Input

• Themes
  – Either loved or absolutely hated roundabouts
  – Pedestrian safety is a major concern
  – Mixed thoughts on the speed of traffic
So how did we choose the plan?

+ Analyzed traffic models
+ Generated cost estimates
+ Reviewed community input and evaluation factors

= The Plan
NEXT STEPS
Schedule

• Now – late Spring 2020
  – Design phase
    • Roadway and drainage design
    • Street lighting design
    • Landscaping design with stakeholder input
    • Utility coordination
Schedule

- Summer 2020
  - Project posted for bidding (approx. 30 days)
  - Contractor selected
  - Contractor bid amount at this time will determine final project scope
  - Public Meeting #3 (Goal: June 2020)
Schedule

• Mid Summer 2020
  – Construction to begin

• Spring/Summer 2021
  – Project to be completed
Thank you!

All presentation material will be posted on the project website wcroads.org
QUESTIONS AND OPEN HOUSE
Contact Us

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