



BELTRAMI COUNTY
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
2491 Adams Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601
Telephone: 218-333-8173

June 6, 2023

Dear Landowner:

Beltrami County has been preparing to make improvements to CSAH 20 (Birchmont Beach Rd) from CSAH 21 (Bemidji Ave) to CR 414 (State Park entrance). The project will address the degrading surface condition, narrow road, and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on this high use corridor.

A Design Review Committee was convened in 2020 to provide input on the project and desired road section. The committee included residents along the project, City, Twp, DNR and a bicycling advocate. The pandemic caused some issues with the process and the consultant did not deliver a final report, but input was received from the committee. During the process we heard concerns about the volume of traffic, truck traffic, speed of traffic, noise, and impacts to properties along with input on the preferred road section. Later a petition was given to the Twp to consider rerouting traffic and to make the road a dead-end. The County Board did review that option, however with the limited practical options for rerouting, expected concerns from residents on any new route, and consideration of the entire road system, it was decided to continue with the project as planned.

The County has now started planning and design of the project. Survey work was completed this spring. We recently hired a local engineering consulting firm, Freeberg and Grund, to assist with design. The planned road section will be an urban (curb and gutter) section with a separated pedestrian/bicycling trail. The design will take into consideration options to help reduce vehicle speed and to limit construction impacts to the extent possible. The existing right of way corridor is 60 to 66 feet wide, which should accommodate most of the project. Specific construction impacts and details will be determined thru the design phase and will be shared at a later time.

The County has been working with Northern Township (and the City of Bemidji) on the potential of including water and sanitary sewer during this project. If you are not aware, the City has decided to not allow the Twp to hook up to city water and sewer. The Twp is now reviewing other alternatives and may do a feasibility study on some type of public sewer system. Please check with the Twp if you have any questions on this.

For now, the time frame for the project is not set. It was originally planned for 2024, however the County Board may consider a minor change to accommodate the potential public sewer.

Feel free to contact us with any questions at 333-8173.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hasbargen
County Engineer