

Fridley: University Ave (47) / HWY 65

Workshop 1 – Small Group Discussion

1. In what ways are 47/65 an asset to the City of Fridley?

<p><u>North South and Freeway Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thru-way to get to business and 3-way to get to 694/Mpls (going north and south)• Getting to Anoka• Good access to north or downtown (two options)• Ability to get places we need to go (downtown, etc.)• Convenient secondary route to downtown or north• Good way to get out of town – north or south• Access to freeways• People traveling our area• They are two of the largest connections (North and South)• Only north/south access• Easy access to freeways• Freeway access• Traffic uses highways instead of cutting through neighborhoods• Easy commute/access• Good close access to 35W and 694 and 610• Good access for large vehicles from nearby sites• Good access to Minneapolis, St. Paul, Twins games• Business exposure• Mobility/freight• Good access to business, churches, commercial, industrial and schools	<p><u>Jobs and Employment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truck access – businesses• Supports employers (commercial and industrial)• Truck traffic business in and out• Main commercial centers• Access to shopping• Brings people to shop/work/play/spend• Businesses have visibility <p><u>Visitors to Fridley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an image (positive or negative) of our city• Brings people to our community• Funnels people into Fridley• Access to freeways• People traveling our area• Connect us to other communities• People from other communities to come to Fridley – shop, etc. <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location• Emergency vehicle full access• Transit access• Good speed limit – cars• Location of City Hall on 47
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2. In what ways have 47/65 changed during your time in Fridley?

<p><u>Increased Speed and Traffic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher traffic levels (65 to Blaine)• Speed limit has increased• Much higher traffic and congestion• Longer wait times to cross for few cars• Higher speed• More congestion at intersections• <u>Lot more traffic</u>• Speed changes (faster)• Speed limit increase• Traffic increase• Volume increase but roads haven't improved• Increased speed• Increased traffic (on both)• Increased speed• Higher speeds• Higher usage• Volume has greatly increased• Main commuter roads <p><u>Road Design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More turning lanes• Wider roads• Most improvements have been around cars/traffic• 47 from one lane to two• More signal (?) has been initiated <p><u>Landscaping and Fencing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Now have rusty fences• Getting rid of some chain link ugly fence• Median along University is not maintained• Like new fence on Hwy 47 – rod iron fence	<p><u>Residential and Commercial Uses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Busier – more trucks, more residents and businesses, more buses, more housing, light rail and transit stations• Northtown• More businesses have left/closed between 694 and Mississippi on the east side• New construction along the corridor• Aesthetics (Cielo Apartments)• Development• Improvements (example: Medtronics, Minco, Target districts) <p><u>Pedestrian/Bike/Transit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved bicycle options• More pedestrians have been hit/killed on 56/47• Added bike and pedestrian paths in a couple places (57th to 53rd and Central)• Hazardous to pedestrians, bikes• Bus stops• Creative pedestrian crossing on Hwy 65 and 694• Good public transportation (bus) <p><u>Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased fatalities• More accidents• More pedestrian deaths <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noise and air pollution increase• Became a “pass through” for others outside of Fridley• Fridley has become a “drive through” city• Love the garbage cans at the bus stops• Out of district school traffic• Community Park (access to)
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3. **How does 47/65 impact your interest and/or ability to walk, bike or use public transportation?**

<p><u>Crossing Intersections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Struggle crossing intersections• No clear crosswalks• Timing of lights, high traffic, etc. – affect interest in pursuing a walk or bike ride• Long wait times impact walking and short crossing times• Stop light(s) flow• Can't cross safely• Traffic lights are set for cars/autos• Difficulty with pedestrian crossings on both 65 and 47 <p><u>Safety for Walking and Biking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncomfortable to walk or send my kids walking across• There are walkways/bikeways that could use improvement• Safety for biking/walking• Avoid walking/biking because of traffic speed and volume• Avoid walking and biking• Impossible to use for family bikes/strollers• Lack of safe bike/ped crossing to connect to shops or bike paths• Major barrier for biking and pedestrians• Taking life in your own hands to cross and/or bicycle along on shoulder• Safety concerns• Barrier for bikes/pedestrians (especially small kids)• Scary walking across Hwy 65• Safe routes to schools, parks, other destinations• Great access to Anoka County trail system• Bad for kids walking to school	<p><u>Transit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I use 47 for busing to downtown – it's nice to have express buses• 65/Mississippi, bus stop only has bench and it is destroyed every winter• Bus stops marginal – block visibility and traffic• Too many stops for public transportation, less desirable too• Lack of bus shelters/maintenance• Snow can cause hazards for people using transit• Bus stops tacky – benches falling into ditch. Uninviting and unprotected.• Bus pulls into dirt shoulder to pick-up• Better bus stops <p><u>Lighting and Landscaping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor lighting• Needs maintenance on landscaping <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Length of rides• Fumes from traffic is toxic• Disconnects community• Barriers/silos• Good winter maintenance is needed
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4. **How does 47/65 impact your ability to travel (by any means) east and west across Fridley?**

<p><u>Timing of Intersections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lights are too long• Slow! Lights feel like forever to change• Need to be a certain age to cross 65/47• Signal turning could/should be adjusted• Long lights to cross• Timing of lights (delay) – make more intelligent, not enough time to cross• Turning/timing – drive danger due to timing• Flashing left amber (needed)• Loss of safe driving due to short turn signals• Emergency vehicles reset lights timing• 47 has 2.5 minute cycles. Turn lanes get 10 seconds.• 65 has 4.5 minute cycles. Turn lanes get 10 – 20 seconds.• Timing of light signals for pedestrians are too short• Timing of turn signals <p><u>East West Travel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes longer to get across Fridley than downtown via 94• Tough to go east/west during busy hours• Cross streets are very valuable <p><u>Areas of Interest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 61st/University – blind spots for cars/walkers (bushes)• 65 and Moore Lake needs higher priority with schools and churches• Designated turn lanes (Mississippi and 65) going east• 53rd is designed too tight for semis• 47 and Mississippi bus stop/pedestrians/cars – dangerous	<p><u>Lighting and Landscaping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting• Bad lighting around 47 and 85th – people have been injured there!• Lights seem low <p><u>Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not safe – hazardous, impacts our travel negatively• Impacts choice of travel usually only by car for a safe crossing• Slower• Not safe for children <p><u>Commuters vs. Local Trips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local residents/trips are less priority for other to go through Fridley to get to their work• Stressful to drive (congestion)• Elongating right acceleration lanes to merge onto the highway• Takes time to get access – longer during rush hour <p><u>Sidewalks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of wide sidewalks/crossings• Lack of sidewalks <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right turn lanes or left turn lanes “back in the Eighties”• Going south off 69th
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5. How do you envision the desired appearance of these corridors?

<p><u>Landscaping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The reputation of Fridley is negative by the poor appearance of intersections and corridors. Needs to be significantly updated.• Unique• Look at Hwy 96!• No more chain link fences – catch garbage• Aesthetically pleasing• Matching fancy (black iron) fences would be nice• Nicer trees/pretty blooming/type of landscape• Improved landscaping• Distinctive cosmetic styles, aesthetics, etc.• Cleaner – landscaping• More thoughtful about tree maintenance• Landscaping, trees• Low maintenance landscaping (good visibility)• Continuity of fencing and landscaping• Better landscaping along Hwy 47• Median landscaping and traffic calming• Chain link fence (city initiated, state said city would be responsible for any accidents or injuries)• State mow the median regularly and pick up trash• Fix eye sore of Black Desert parking lots and associated eye sore of parked cars by planting trees in parking lots that will beautify and provide summer shade and cooling for customers while beautifying the drive by viewing. Use earth friendly water/air breathing pavers around trees to allow them to survive and thrive. <p><u>Moore Lake</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make Fridley and Hwy 65 drive thru/crossing of Moore Lake a destination much enjoy drive	<p><u>Pedestrian and Bike Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA compatible• Bike lane accessible• Walkways/pathways• Better access to bike/walking trails and routes for those that live between 47 and 65• No overpass on University Ave and Mississippi• Visual cues for multi-modal lanes• Continuity of bike lanes• Separation between pedestrians/bike and highways <p><u>Lighting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting• Lighting is needed – modernized• Well lit• 49er’s too old lighting styles, etc.• Better lighting• Lights down center median <p><u>Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety – school• Larger safe zones – consider large families (with bikes or strollers)• More traffic calming effects – “boulevard” <p><u>Transit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean bus stops – make safe, back away from the road• Good, aesthetically pleasing transit options and stops (shelters) <p><u>Speeds and Traffic Flow</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wide enough• Islands are close to intersections – need to be cleaner• Smarter cycles/timing on signals (more efficient)• Safe adequate sidewalks• Not raise speed limits
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line Hwy crossing of Moore Lake with planting of cotton less cottonwood trees and enjoy as it canopies, frames, and accents the lake crossing un-doing the damage of putting a major road thru a lake (require that every 3-5 years the trees are inspected pruned) Make the Moore Lake causeway an asset for the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not lower speed Effect of driving apps on traffic flow (example: 73rd is picked up by apps because no stops and becomes busier) <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fridley station needs a public restroom Functionality is most important Aware of utility parking on streets No trash Grade separations Place-making Connect Locke park over 47
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6. What additional information would be helpful to consider options for 47/65?

<p><u>Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would the cost of improvements be to citizens? How many people would walk or bike to work or school if it was safer? Other examples of updates? How do we move to "complete streets"? How to improve these major roads to improve our "community"? <p><u>Requests for Data</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crash statistics and data on accidents Sound and pollution study More info on tier 1, 2, and 3 <p><u>Suggestions/Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change 47/694 exit/entrances to pit in an overhead Walkway for transit people Could 65 or 47 be the main street to go through, and maybe have a higher speed limit or access and the other road be used for more local traffic? Walkways, biking, school access More county money provided for southern Anoka County!! (And MnDOT money) 	<p><u>Suggestions/Comments (continued)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic calming Round-a-bouts Bus cut outs Keep ADA and people with mobility issues in mind when designing Do X left turns, not L Light rail – both highways Express on Hwy 65 Additional access to frontage roads/businesses, like half way between major intersections Make Hwy 65 prettier through Moore Lake Plans for BRT in the area Project timelines and impact use of roads Heavy traffic going north on 65 – relief Police info on speeding, accidents Pedestrian injuries at intersections Better signage at crosswalks Vehicles stop further back from crosswalks Speed limits set reasonably Access from City Hall to go south onto 47 by emergency vehicles Removal of turn onto service road from 47 going south
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