



VETERANS BOULEVARD CORRIDOR EXTENSION STUDY

INTRODUCTION

As growth and development continues in the Fargo-Moorhead area's southwest metro, a continuous corridor along the Veterans Boulevard alignment will be necessary to meet future transportation needs and access future residences, businesses and amenities. An extension of Veterans Boulevard would also help alleviate traffic on other parallel roadways such as Sheyenne Street/CR 17 and 45th Street.

The extension of Veterans Boulevard has the potential to serve many functions. Besides accommodating vehicular traffic, the corridor has the potential to provide a safe and inviting environment for pedestrians and bicycle users, accommodate future transit, and can be an amenity for future neighborhoods, parks, and businesses.

STUDY AREA & BACKGROUND

The study's limits extend five miles from 40th Avenue S to 100th Avenue S. The study will evaluate both the extension of Veterans Boulevard south of 52nd Avenue S and will evaluate a one-mile existing section of Veterans Boulevard north of 52nd Avenue S. This one-mile existing section, from 40th Avenue S to 52nd Avenue S, will be evaluated to see how a future extension of the corridor could impact this corridor section. In addition, any safety, traffic operations, or other existing needs will be evaluated between 40th Avenue S and 52nd Avenue S. The map to the right shows the study corridor including the study intersections.





WHAT'S BEEN DONE SO FAR?

The study team has completed the Existing Conditions Report, which identifies the existing transportation, environmental, and land use needs that will guide and constrain the corridor's extension and the alternatives which can be considered.

Below is a summary of these conditions:

INFRASTRUCTURE CONDITIONS

- North of 52nd Avenue, Veterans Boulevard is currently unclassified, but is expected to be classified as a minor arterial. South of 52nd Avenue, the corridor is unclassified, with no immediate plans of classification. This study will need to determine the corridor's function and develop a form which reflects it.
- Most of the land surrounding the corridor has not been platted, resulting in a lack of right-of-way. The full build out of Veterans Boulevard will dictate the right-of-way needs and guide subdivision processes at the City of Horace and City of Fargo.
- Both public and private utilities are present along the corridor. Coordination with these utilities will be necessary during construction activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Several environmental factors are present along the existing corridor of Veterans Boulevard including water resources and noise-sensitive land uses. These factors will require additional consultation during any construction project to minimize potential impacts.
- Water resources and factors, including Drain 27, and flood plains will be the primary environmental constraint when evaluating future alignments for the extension of Veterans Boulevard. The size and location of the future stormwater pond will be a major determinant in future alignments.

MULTIMODAL CONDITIONS

- The existing corridor has multimodal facilities on both sides of the roadway with marked crossings at intersections. Transit serves the north end of the study area with hourly service. The number of facilities combined with the nearby schools and other pedestrian generators will require a high priority on pedestrian and bicycle mobility. The corridor extension should seek to provide a similar or higher level of multimodal amenities.
- All study intersections and approaches operate acceptably at LOS C or better during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours. Some queueing issues occur during the p.m. peak hour at the Veterans Boulevard and 40th Avenue intersection.
- There was a total of 36 crashes within the study area over the past three years. The majority of these crashes occurred at the 40th Avenue or 44th Avenue intersections with Veterans Boulevard. There were no fatal crashes along the corridor, although there was one incapacitating injury crash which involved a cyclist that occurred at 44th Avenue. Only the Veterans Boulevard and 44th Avenue intersection has a crash rate and severity rate above the critical rates for intersections with similar characteristics.





WHAT'S NEXT?

The study team is working on a variety of technical and public engagement efforts to help guide the next steps of the corridor study:

- Organizing Stakeholder Focus Groups with key stakeholders identified by Metro COG and their jurisdictional partners.
- Updating growth and development expectations for use in the travel demand model, which helps determine the future capacity needs on Veterans Boulevard and other functionally classified roadways across the metro. This information will guide the Future Conditions Report.
- Developing the corridor vision based on the existing and future conditions analysis and feedback from the project's Study Review Committee, Stakeholder Focus Groups, and general public. This will guide the alternatives development and analysis process.



WHAT'S THE STUDY PROCESS?

The Veterans Boulevard Corridor Extension Study will be completed by August 2021. This study will identify the existing needs along the corridor, the future transportation needs along the extension, identify an alignment that responds to environmental constraints, evaluate roadway alternatives, and formulate the implementation plan. The project's Study Review Committee will meet four times throughout the process and the public will have three opportunities to provide feedback.

TASK	2020								2021							
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
PROJECT KICK-OFF																
DATA COLLECTION																
EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT																
VISIONING																
SRC #1																
PIM #1																
FORECASTING AND FUTURE CONDITIONS REPORT																
PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED																
SRC #2																
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS																
SRC #3																
PIM #2																
DRAFT REPORT																
SRC #4																
FINAL REPORT																
ADOPTION PROCESS																
PROJECT CLOSE-OUT																



ENGINEERING, REIMAGINED

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JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE!

Join us at the study's web page www.vetsblvdextension.com for the first public engagement opportunity, now through October 4th! Due to COVID-19, the first open house will be entirely virtual, but we have plenty of ways you can learn more about the project and provide feedback:

-  Watch a project overview video.
-  Provide comments on key issues and opportunities on the interactive issues map for the existing corridor.
-  Complete a Form and Function Survey to help establish the vision for the corridor.
-  Sign up for project updates.

You can also send comments directly to the study team's Public Engagement Coordinator at the following address:

Brenda Thomas
3203 32nd Avenue S #201
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Or via email at Brenda.Thomas@kljeng.com



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