

December 8, 2006

Dear West 70<sup>th</sup> Street Area Residents:

On behalf of the Commission, thanks to all of you who attended the first informational meeting on Nov. 28. It has become quite clear to members of the Commission that the study is very important to Edina residents. We have received approximately 200 comments to date regarding this study.

The Commission chose to conduct the study for a number of reasons. This area was one of six traffic areas identified in the 2003 Local Traffic Taskforce Report. (The Local Traffic Taskforce was the forerunner to the current Transportation Commission.) The 1999 Transportation Plan also identified West 70<sup>th</sup> Street as a congested area needing more study. The 2006 Greater Southdale Area Land Use & Transportation Study also identified this corridor as a future study area.

While some of these studies identified potential changes to the 70<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, it is important to note that none of these changes have received the support or approval of the City Council. Further information to be gathered in the 70<sup>th</sup> Street Study is necessary to understand and make good decisions about what, if any, roadway improvements should be considered for the area.

The first component of the study is to determine the issues and needs of the West 70<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, including adjacent side streets. These issues must consider safety, speed, access and volume for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles as well as other "quality of life" issues. These issues will be defined through collection and analysis of data as well as through citizen input.

The Transportation Commission wants to hear from residents and businesses. To submit comments by e-mail, visit [www.CityofEdina.com/70thStreetStudy](http://www.CityofEdina.com/70thStreetStudy). To submit written comments, download a Comment Card from the website, fill it out and mail it to City Hall. City officials plan to establish an e-mail subscription service early next year that will allow a person to sign up to receive e-mail notices about the study.

As with all studies, a process needs to be followed. The process utilized for the West 70<sup>th</sup> Street Study is to first identify the issues, then develop a problem statement and potential solutions to address the problem. Public input will occur throughout the process to both inform area residents and business owners about study results as well as determine the level of support for possible solutions. The Edina Transportation Commission is committed to recommending roadway changes only if broad public support is demonstrated.

It is important to note that no solutions have been developed or adopted for this corridor. The Transportation Commission will soon review a revised schedule for the study. The schedule will include more public input throughout the process, from beginning to end. The schedule will also coincide with the effort to update the City's Comprehensive Plan, which will be completed in 2007. This will enable the transportation issues to be analyzed and be cross-utilized with this study.

The Edina Transportation Commission requests your patience as the City progresses with the Comprehensive Plan update and the study and encourages all those who are interested to become more informed of the issues and get involved.

Sincerely,

Les Wanninger  
Chairperson of the Transportation Commission