



*Beltrami
County*



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Reconstruction of CSAH 22 (MN PFH 52)

Beltrami County, Minnesota

A Public Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2002 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at the MN DOT Northwest District Office located at 3920 Highway 2 West in Bemidji, MN.

The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (FS), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT), and the Beltrami County Highway Department are developing alternatives for proposed roadway improvements along CSAH 22 in Beltrami County. Repairs are needed to improve the riding surface, upgrade to road to current standards, correct drainage and geometric deficiencies, improve driver safety, and provide for future transportation needs.

The proposed study area is along approximately 6.9 miles of CSAH 22 (MN PFH 52) between CSAH 27 and CSAH 39 in Beltrami County, Minnesota. The route passes through a predominately rural area within the boundaries of the Blackduck State Forest and the Chippewa National Forest. The existing gravel roadway averages 22 feet in width with substandard ditches and varying slopes. Located adjacent to the roadway is heavy vegetation and some wetland areas, and in one section the Twin Lakes. The current legal speed limit on the route is 55 mph; however, the actual speed is limited in some areas to approximately 30 mph due to the roadway geometry.

As part of the planning and analysis an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to evaluate several alternatives for accomplishing this work with the least impact to the social, natural, and cultural environment. The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service will prepare the EA.

Public Meeting

The meeting will be held in an open forum with displays providing an overview of the purpose and need for the project. The purpose of this public information meeting is to obtain comments and answer questions concerning the proposed road improvements. Preliminary alternatives and potential impacts of the proposed project can be discussed at this meeting with individuals from each of the agencies. Site area maps and general information regarding the proposed project will be available for viewing and discussion.

Public involvement activities provide an opportunity for the FHWA and its partners to present information to the general public while the various stages of the planning process are being undertaken. It also offers an opportunity for individuals, representatives of civic groups, public agencies, and governing bodies to offer comments, submit written material, and ask questions regarding the proposed project, as well as become informed of the schedule for future events in the process. Public involvement permits the exchange of ideas and information for the development of alternatives, identification of potential impacts, and selection of the preferred courses of action. Comments and suggestions will assist the planners in addressing the communities concerns. The intent of this process is to develop a design, which meets the project needs, yet minimizes adverse environmental and community impacts.

Public Comments

Verbal and written comments are requested. Comments may be presented at the meeting or in writing following the meeting. Written comments should be mailed to Ms. Brigitte A. Azran, Environmental Compliance Engineer, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, 21400 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, VA, 20166 by **July 18, 2002**.

For more information, please call Ms. Azran at 1(800) 892-8776 x.6283.