


# Naperville gets public's input on fixes for 95th Street, Book Road intersection

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Suzanne Baker

 Naperville this week unveiled three plans to improve the traffic flow at intersection of 95th Street and Book Road.

Anyone who circumnavigates the connection of the two roadways during morning or afternoon rush hour expects delays and long lines of vehicles waiting to get through the traffic light.

Additional turn lanes or through lanes could improve safety and limit the number of vehicles from stacking up at lights, prompting city officials to seek input from drivers and residents to determine if and when intersection upgrades should be done and the scope of construction work.

Three conceptual plans were presented to the community at the 95th Street Library Thursday to gauge if people think a few right turn lanes should suffice or whether more turn lanes and through lanes would help traffic flow more smoothly.

Andy Hynes, a project engineer for the city of Naperville, said input from the public will be presented to the Naperville City Council so it can plan for how the project should be funded since both 95th Street and Book Road fall under the jurisdiction of the city.

Preliminary engineering will occur throughout 2018, design engineering is planned for 2019, and construction is expected in 2021. It is anticipated the improvements will be completed within one construction season.

The first plan would add right-turn lanes on eastbound 95th Street and southbound Book Road at a cost of \$1.1 million.

The second alternative – with a \$2.1 million price tag – adds through lanes on Book Road in addition to what was included in the first plan.

Plan three combines the first two options and adds right-turn lanes at the remaining two corners for a total cost of \$2.4 million.

Hynes said while Naperville would have to foot the bill for the \$1.1 million plan, the city could apply for federal funding for the second and third alternatives. Maps and details on the three alternatives are available on the city's website under "[95th Street and Book Road Intersection Improvements](#)."

Those unable to share their opinions Thursday can submit written comments to the attention of Kelly Dunne, Project Engineer, City of Naperville TED Business Group, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL 60540 or via email to [dunnek@naperville.il.us](mailto:dunnek@naperville.il.us).

The deadline to be included in the public record is 5 p.m. Oct. 4.

City numbers show between 20,600 and 20,800 cars travel on 95th Street in each direction daily.

Dunne said the number is projected to increase nearly 10,000 by 2040, based on figures from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, which predicts future traffic patterns.

The number of cars moving each direction on Book Road is around 13,750. By 2040, CMAP figures estimate the number of cars moving northward daily will be 17,000 and 18,000 will be southbound.

Any improvement at the intersection could decrease the number of traffic accidents.

City records show the intersection currently averages 20 crashes per year.

If the Naperville leaves the juncture alone, the accident rate is projected to climb to 28 crashes per year by 2040.

Should the city select either of the first two plans, the number of traffic accidents is projected to drop to 13.75 per year while the third alternative would bring the number down to 12.68 crashes per year.

Many of the citizens who attended the Thursday forum questioned the accuracy of the traffic counts provided by CMAP and whether the 2040 figures take into account the new housing developments going up on the south end of Naperville.

Others suggested the Naperville Park District's proposed Frontier Sports Complex Public Plaza – slated for the property south of the 95th Street Library and east of Neuqua Valley High School – could add even more traffic because it could become a destination for people across the city.

The park district plans calls for a band shell, two playgrounds, butterfly and rain gardens, trail connections and a pond with radio-controlled model boats.

Kevin Nelson, vice president with consulting engineering company CMT, said some people who attended Thursday didn't want the city to do anything with the intersection.

"There's a lot of construction fatigue from Naperville-Plainfield Road project," Nelson said of the Will County project to widen that road's intersection with 95th Street.

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