

# COUNTY HIGHWAY 13 (RADIO DRIVE) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY - SUMMER 2023

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Washington County is exploring improvements to County Highway 13 (Radio Drive) between County Highway 20 (Military Road) to Hargis Parkway. This goals of this project are to expand the two-lane highway to a four-lane highway, add multi-use trails, manage stormwater runoff, and improve the intersection of Radio Drive and Dale Road. The first phase of engagement set out to introduce the project to the community and stakeholders and learn about existing experiences and needs from Radio Drive. Input received during this phase will solidify project goals and inform the development of initial alternatives.



**WHAT ENGAGEMENT OCCURRED?**

 <b>Stakeholder Meetings</b> 9 Property Owners First Oaks Community Church	 <b>Pop-Up Event</b> August 18, 2023 Jerry's Foods	 <b>Open House</b> August 23, 2023 East Ridge High School	 <b>Community Survey</b> Survey and Online Map open Aug. 23 to Sept. 6
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**WHAT WE HEARD**

Early engagement efforts identified overall support of the County Highway 13 Improvement Project. Across the various events and activities, highway users and community members shared their experiences and the challenges experienced with the current highway. Additionally, a number of needs and desires were heard that could be explored through the project.



**WHAT ARE THE COMMON THEMES?**

Desires for change in intersection traffic control (traffic signals or roundabouts)	Desire for additional sidewalks and trails
Desire for improved mobility when traveling along the highway	Desire for additional travel lanes
Desire for additional turn lanes to improve turning movements onto and off of the highway	Consider compatibility with existing developments while also planning for growth
Reduce congestion experienced along the highway	Reduce turning movement conflicts
Desire to increase safety for all users	Consider access for individual properties and future development
Balance improvements and impacts to private property	



## POP-UP EVENT SUMMARY

A pop-event was held at Jerry's Foods on August 18, 2023 from 3 to 5 p.m. The event provided an opportunity to share awareness of the Radio Drive Improvement Project and gather initial feedback.

**Who we heard from:** The project team engaged with about 40 community members at the event through conversations and participation in the exercise.

## Key Themes

### Concerns:

- Speed (55 mph seems too high)
- Vehicular and pedestrian safety
- Delays and backups at Dale Rd and Radio Dr intersection
- Additional education on navigating roundabouts properly
- Challenges turning southbound from Bailey Lake Rd

### Comments/Suggestions:

- Great idea!
- Make roadway safer!
- Upgrade asap!
- Add turn lanes where needed
- Roundabout at Dale strongly supported by several people
- Multi-use trails strongly supported by several people
- Expand to 4-lanes strongly supported by several people (makes sense due to capacity needs and consistent with corridor to north and south)





An open house was held at East Ridge High School on August 23, 2023 from 4 to 6 p.m. Overall, attendees supported the project and shared desires and considerations for the project team.

**Who we heard from:** The project team engaged with about 30 community members at the event through conversations and participation in the exercises.

## Key Themes

- Trails along Radio Drive, to MHealth, to Jerrys area, south to Cottage Grove
- Pedestrian tunnel/bridge at Hargis Parkway
- Challenges getting out of side streets (Bailey Lake Rd) and driveways, including sightline issues
- Traffic light at Dale Road – some concerns about roundabouts in general
- Roundabout at Dale Road
- Manage stormwater
- Landscaping, limit impacts to existing
- Traffic Calming
- 1 lane with turn lanes vs 2 lane design
- Vehicle noise experienced at residential properties
- Concerns with overall travel speeds along corridor.

## Corridor Considerations Activity

Participants were offered the opportunity to share their support for the design elements identified by the project team. No additional considerations were identified by participants.

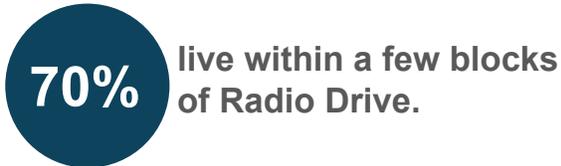
<p>Traffic signals</p>  <p><b>6</b> dots</p>	<p>Roundabouts</p>  <p><b>4</b> dots</p>	<p>Stormwater treatment basin</p>  <p><b>5</b> dots</p>
<p>Raised medians</p>  <p><b>2</b> dots</p>	<p>4-lane divided roadway with shoulders</p>  <p><b>3</b> dots</p>	
<p>Multi-use trails</p>  <p><b>10</b> dots</p>	<p>Streetscaping (medians/boulevards)</p>  <p><b>4</b> dots</p>	



## SURVEY RESULTS

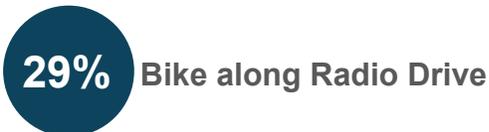
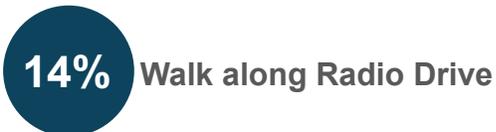
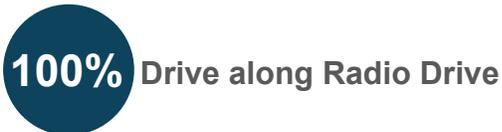
An online survey was available from August 23 to September 6. The survey questions were poised to learn more about the community's needs and desires from Radio Drive. Ten community members participated in the survey. An online comment map was also available, but no comments were added at this phase.

### 1) What role best describes your primary use of Radio Drive?

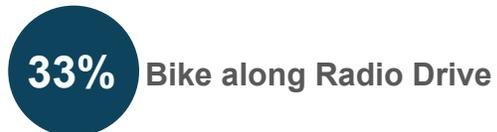
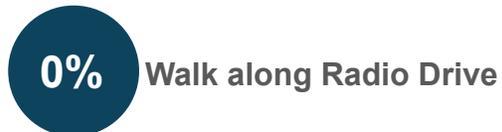
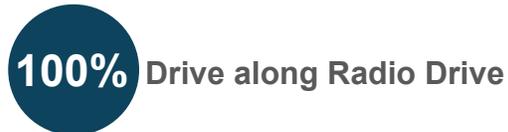


### 2) How do you use Radio Drive?

For those that live within a few block of Radio Drive:



For those that use Radio Drive to travel somewhere:





## SURVEY RESULTS

### 3) What improvements to Radio Drive do you want the project team to consider?

#### Responses from those that live within a few blocks of Radio Drive

Comments	Themes	
More Lanes, Roundabout on Radio/Dale. Potentially another roundabout on Radio/Bailey Lake Road	More Lanes	Traffic Control
I'm thrilled that it's being considered to continue the two lanes south on Radio after Hargis. The merge that happens after that light, with folks turning right onto Radio is a mess. I also know there is a bit of a bottleneck that tends to happen at the current stop sign at Dale and Radio, so consideration for a light or roundabout should go over well with the community, I imagine.	More Lanes	Access
	Con-gestion	Traffic Control
Make it safer to exit and enter the new developments while also adding trails that are safe distance from road for bike riding.	Safety	Sidewalk/ Trails
Keep traffic moving. The current stop signs at the Dale intersection only seem to cause cars to unnecessarily bunch up. At Radio/ Hargis, it'd be nice to see improved pedestrian access (ideally paths/sidewalks extending to intersections on all sides). Right now, there's not a great way to access the new path in front of the new apartment building without crossing somewhere in the middle of Hargis.	Mobility	Traffic Control
	Con-gestion	Access
While the Dale Rd intersection is busy, the current stop sign or a future stop light significantly slows the travel time between Cottage Grove and Woodbury on Radio Drive. I would prefer to see a roundabout for that intersection to reduce slowdowns for north/ south bound traffic. I would also prefer to see a raised median on the stretch of Radio between Hargis and Military to match what currently exists between Hargis and Bailey.	More Lanes	Mobility
	Design	Traffic Control
I would like walking paths all the way from military to Harris parkway, along with improvements to the intersection at Dale Road	Traffic Control	Sidewalk/ Trails
A roundabout at the intersection of Dale Rd and Radio Dr, please A sidewalk would be great too, connecting the one that stops at Military Rd extending it north toward Hargis Pkwy	Traffic Control	Sidewalk/ Trails



## SURVEY RESULTS

### 3) What improvements to Radio Drive do you want the project team to consider? (continued)

#### Responses from those that travel along Radio Drive.

##### Comments

##### Themes

Dale road and Radio traffic lights or roundabout (prefer lights). Need a better flow to control the excess traffic and long waits and back ups.



Favor and respect current property owners along the roadway instead of new developments.



Sidewalks connecting Woodbury to Cottage Grove. Turn lanes/thru lanes, especially at Dale road vs a stop sign.



### 4) Do you have any comments or question for the project team?

- Hard to turn out of Bridlewood Farms Development onto Radio Drive. Desire for a roundabout
- Roundabouts preferred over stoplights, but stoplights are preferred over a stop sign.
- Could additional access be accommodated between Hargis and Military to support future commercial development.
- Improve Radio Drive all the way to Glen Road.
- The Radio Drive and Military Road intersection is regularly delayed. A roundabout would be ideal.
- Would like to see improvements sooner than 2028. The stop sign at Dale Rd and Radio Drive is inadequate with increasing development and improvements are needed before 2028, even temporary improvements.
- Balance the overall cost and needs of the roadway.
- Seeing improvements sooner than 2028 is desired. That is a long time to wait for safety improvements.