

Frequently Asked Questions

September 2020

Minnewashta Parkway/Highway 5

1. Is the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum planning to move their main entrance?

Yes, the Arboretum entrance is planned to be relocated as shown in the [Arboretum Master Plan](#). The timing of the move is to be determined (see Question 4 below).

Based on issues identified through the Arboretum Area Transportation Plan (AATP) technical analysis and public input, we have incorporated the relocation of the Arboretum's main entrance into improvement plans for [Highway 5](#). Relocating the main entrance will make the old location available for use as the primary exit during busy times.



2. Why is the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum moving their main entrance? Won't this just move the traffic and congestion problems?

Congestion issues already exist today on Highway 5 during weekday peak hours. These issues are magnified during Arboretum events on weekdays and weekends. For a visual of existing and future traffic conditions, see [Highway 5 Improvement Needs](#).

We collected traffic data during events to understand the issues and extents of backups. The congestion issues are largely due to the Arboretum's site itself not moving traffic through efficiently during events.

Moving the main entrance for the Arboretum will allow for ticketing changes on site to provide better flow and to remove backups from Highway 5.

Highway 5 is planned to be expanded to four lanes in the future. This expansion will add capacity on Highway 5 to adequately handle through-traffic and will provide turn lanes for access to Minnewashta Parkway and the relocated Arboretum entrance. This will allow for efficient movements both through and at the intersection during peak hours and events. This will be very different than today and will result in adequate operations for all users through this area.

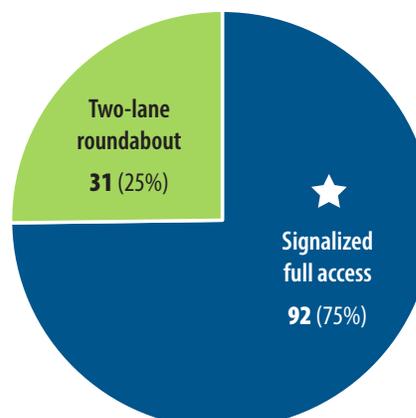
3. Why is a signal being considered at the Minnewashta Parkway/Highway 5 intersection?

We heard from the community that delays and safety are primary concerns for getting in and out of the Minnewashta Parkway neighborhood. A summary of comments and feedback about intersection options are shown below.

Hwy 5/Minnewashta Pkwy intersection

- Safety concerns
- Long waits onto Hwy 5
- Many residents avoid intersection
- Concern about Hwy 5 changes increasing traffic on Minnewashta Pkwy
- Add intersection control such as light or roundabout

Summary of comments received during the Public Open House held in July 2019.

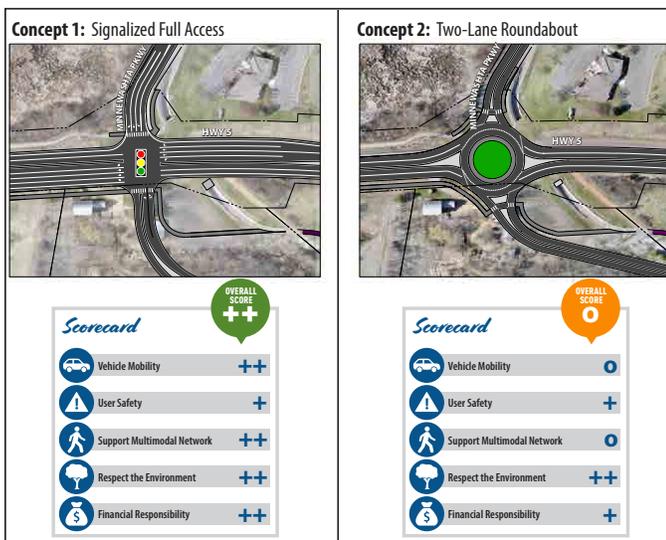


Feedback about intersection options from the Public Open House and follow-up online survey held in December 2019.

Continued on next page

If we do nothing at this intersection, the issues on Highway 5 and backups on Minnewashta Parkway will worsen. Predicted traffic increases on Highway 5 will reduce gaps available to merge onto the highway, leading to an increase in risk-taking behaviors and other safety concerns.

The project team looked at both a signal and roundabout concept for the intersection. The Signalized Full Access (Concept 1) operates best for both Highway 5 and Minnewashta Parkway.



Moving the Arboretum entrance as the fourth leg of this intersection allows for signal installation (if traffic warrants met). **If the Arboretum entrance is not relocated, a signal is unlikely to be added in the next 20 years.**

**More questions?
Contact the project manager:**

Angie Stenson, AICP
Carver County Senior Transportation Planner
Phone: 612-360-7422
Email: astenson@co.carver.mn.us

4. When will the signal be installed?

A temporary signal is planned to be installed at the intersection in Spring 2021 due to construction on Minnewashta Parkway.

Installation of a permanent traffic signal will depend on the timing of the Highway 5 four-lane expansion and Arboretum entrance relocation. This timing is not known yet, but the County, cities and MnDOT are actively looking for funding.

A Twin Cities Regional Solicitation application for federal funding was submitted for a portion of Highway 5 including the Minnewashta Parkway intersection. This is a competitive funding application. If this project is awarded funds, it would be for construction in years 2024-2025. We will know more this fall. The project shown in the funding application is similar to the [Highway 5 concepts layout](#) presented at the second public open house.

5. Are there plans to move the existing pedestrian/bicycle underpass near Minnewashta Parkway?

No, the underpass will remain in place and open to the public for walking and biking access under Highway 5. [A new trail is currently under construction on the south side of Highway 5](#) that will connect the underpass to Highway 41. This trail will be open to the public and will not require entry into the gated area of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

