



Appendix K: Summary of Public Scoping Comments



Summary of Public Scoping Comments	Response
<p>The route of Highway 100 between Cliff and Minnesota Aves. will destroy the value and livability of many residences. The noise study is woefully inadequate by failing to account for the last decade's development. Is it being updated? Is there a way to access the input or comments from the virtual public meetings held April 29-May 29?</p>	<p>Veterans Parkway is currently undergoing a reevaluation of the Environmental study that was previously completed. As a part of the reevaluation, an updated noise analysis will be completed.</p> <p>Since the close of the public meeting, the Project team has been reviewing comments received and providing responses. The website will be updated with Frequently Asked Questions that will reflect any themes regarding comments received.</p>
<p>When the original environmental study was conducted in 2012, the homes and the apartments near 81st place and 83rd street had not been built. With the size of the proposed road, I am very concerned about the amount of noise and traffic that will now be funneled in very close proximity to these apartments and homes nearby.</p>	<p>Following the planning and environmental study previously completed (2012) that identified new road was needed and a preferred location for the new road corridor, SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have had a goal of preserving the right-of-way needed to construct Veterans Parkway. SDDOT and City have worked closely with developers to preserve the corridor. The project team is evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous analysis was completed including potential noise impacts. The results of the analysis will be documented in the supplemental EA which will be publicly available later this year.</p>
<p>We have concerns about the need to minimize noise pollution for the community of homes on 81st Place and 83rd street. When the original environmental study was conducted in 2012, these homes and the apartments across from them had not been built. There is minimal room for noise barriers or landscaping to reduce noise between the homes, apartments, and future road site.</p>	<p>The project team is evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed for the Veterans Parkway project, including potential noise impacts. The results of the analysis will be documented in the supplemental EA which will be publicly available later this year. If warranted, noise abatement options will be developed, analyzed, and provided to the public for review and comment.</p>



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<p>I wanted to express my concerns regarding the placement of the South Veterans Parkway. We purchased a townhome in Harmony Estates (East 82nd Place) 2 years ago. At our recent HOA meeting I discovered that the parkway will run about 3/4 of a block away. My concerns include vehicle noise, increased road trash, & disruption on the wetlands in the neighborhood. I realize an environmental study was done as part of the project but since that time several housing projects have been allowed to be developed. Since this bridge over 85th street will be in our line of sight from most of our house, I would like information on the following: 1. Will there be a noise barrier and, if so, how high will it be? 2. How will the trash & litter be monitored and controlled? I really feel this will destroy the quality of life in our neighborhood.</p>	<p>Please visit the Project website at “southveteransparkway.com” to review information currently provided including a map showing the alignment of Veterans Parkway.</p> <p>The project team is evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed for the Veterans Parkway project, including potential noise impacts. The results of the analysis will be documented in the supplemental EA which will be publicly available later this year. If warranted, noise abatement options will be developed, analyzed, and provided to the public for review and comment.</p> <p>Thank-you for your comment regarding trash and litter. This will be brought up to our project team and discuss options that may be available to help to keep your neighborhood and our City clean.</p>



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<p>We live at 303 E. 82nd Place and are very concerned about the South Veterans Parkway and how close it will be to us and many other homes. The concern includes that the environmental study was completed none of home and apartments in this area were not built. There are many wetlands in this area also and that is a concern. Will there be a wall to buffer the noise and hopefully help confine the garbage. Will there be a path for people to cross the parkway safely? Many people walk and ride bicycles in our neighborhood and this will limit where we can go without some way to cross the Veterans Parkway safely. We also question how high the bridge over 85th street will be since that will be in our view from our living room. Why are you not considering going just a little further south and use Lincoln County 106? Very few homes on 106 and very few wetland if any.</p>	<p>The project team is evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed for the Veterans Parkway project, including potential wetland and noise impacts. The results of the analysis will be documented in the supplemental EA which will be publicly available later this year. If warranted, noise abatement options will be developed, analyzed, and provided to the public for review and comment. In addition to the noise analysis, wetland delineation is also being performed to determine the boundaries of the wetlands. If there are impacts to the delineated wetlands, the impacts will be mitigated in accordance with applicable environmental regulations.</p> <p>The bridge at 85th Street will provide access under (along 85th Street) and have a connection to the shared use path that will run along the south and east side of Veterans Parkway. There will also be a grade separated crossing provided between Western and Minnesota Avenues. Additionally, opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the corridor will exist at intersections with City arterials.</p> <p>The Veterans Parkway would provide intersections at each of City arterials, which are approximately 1-mile apart. To achieve the access spacing necessary for a limited access road, it is not possible to construct the new road along CH106. Moving the road south to this road corridor would remove access to residents and businesses that have been located along the county road long prior to initial planning for Veterans Parkway began.</p> <p>Following County Road 106 was considered as part of the alternatives analysis in the 2003 environmental assessment. This alternative was not carried forward due to property impacts and City jurisdiction. Veterans Parkway will be a limited access arterial and this alternative would have required the buyout of all properties that have access to the county road. Additionally, CH106 is the southern edge of the growth area boundary for the City of Sioux Falls and placing the road at the edge of the boundary would not serve the growth area.</p>



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<p>After watching the informational public forums, we are still perplexed as to why the current location of the parkway is still deemed the best route. The proposed location cuts through a higher end neighborhood which will dramatically decrease the property values of these residents. The area just south of 85th Street would be a much better location for the parkway. There is minimal development in this area which would allow for less disruption to the Grand Prairie, as well as better accommodate the southern growth of Sioux Falls and its residents. The area thru Grand Prairie where the highway is currently projected would be more suitable as a community park. Sioux Falls is lacking on parks with greenery space such as what McKennan Park has to offer in central Sioux Falls. This would be a great opportunity to develop a beautiful nature reserve area for families to enjoy.</p> <p>Our next concern is sound proofing and blocking the visibility of the highway. The sound barriers/berms that are present near Dawley farms between 18thst. and 26thst. appear unkept and tacky. The stretch of land that this highway will run through has homes that range from \$750,000 to 2 million and over. The city should take this into consideration when designing sound barriers. These barriers should also be put in place prior to construction of the highway in order to prevent disrupting the neighborhood with construction visibility and noise. We would like taller berms that are appropriately mowed and cared for. A walking path with both conifers and deciduous trees on both sides of the walkway would be ideal to block this highway from the homes on 77th Street as these are the residents that would be most negatively impacted by the highway.</p> <p>Once again, we are simply asking for clarification as to why the decisions that were made in 2003 are unable to be adjusted in order to accommodate the changing city landscape. The south side of Sioux Falls has dramatically changed in the past eighteen years as should the location of this highway.</p>	<p>We are evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed for the Veterans Parkway project, including potential noise and visual impacts. The results of the analysis will be documented in the supplemental EA which will be made available for public comment when it is completed later this year.</p> <p>Following the planning and environmental study previously completed (2012) that identified a new road was needed and a preferred location for the new road corridor, SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have had a goal of preserving the right-of-way needed to construct Veterans Parkway. SDDOT and City have worked closely with developers to preserve the corridor. The work to preserve this corridor was occurring at the same time and in coordination with the development of Grand Prairie Estates, which was included in the development plans submitted to the City of Sioux Falls. Specific to additional berm height and landscaping along the corridor and shared use path, the Project team will review opportunities to add features that would create a visual break between Veterans Parkway and private areas as needed during design.</p>



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<p>The southern section of the parkway needs to be reevaluated. The growth of Sioux Falls clearly shows that the plans developed many years ago need to be updated. The route should loop further south outside current established development. That way appropriate development can occur around it. Particularly disturbing is the plan to cut through a high end custom housing development. With the cities desire to draw new business and increase tax revenues, maintaining desirable neighborhoods with convenient traffic to developments and business sectors is crucial. When these high speed multi lane roads run close to housing, all care should be put into protecting privacy and values of the home. This would include the use of attractive walls, berms, and greenways. Plantings, trees, and shrubs should be well thought out to block noise and prevent water runoff or drainage issue. Lastly, moving the loop just out of current development to south of 85th will slow the need for another freeway loop as growth occurs in the city</p>	<p>The Veterans Parkway corridor was established as part of the environmental analysis and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval in 2012. Since that time, SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have worked closely with developers to preserve the right-of-way for the road corridor as development plats were submitted. Since 2012 the development that has occurred has included the location of the road corridor.</p> <p>As a part of the evaluating changes that have occurred since the last environmental analysis was completed in 2012, the Project team will consider opportunities for greenway enhancements to provide a visual break between the corridor and adjacent development as warranted</p>
<p>Looking at the map of Veterans Parkway it to me with the new residential that have been developed it would make sense to have the Parkway stay south of 85th Street till Southeastern Avenue then meet to travel north connection. I own properties in area north of 85th and this road would affect my values and be detrimental to all homeowners adjacent too since the Parkway is planned so close to homes in areas. This was planned so long ago and now does not benefit the city or areas affected now as previously planned!</p>	<p>The initial corridor location of Veterans Parkway was approved since 2003 with minor curve adjustments in 2012. Developers and SDDOT/City staff have worked together to preserve the right-of-way as growth has occurred since 2012. Development plans were submitted for approval with the knowledge of the location of Veterans Parkway.</p>



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<p>Very concerned about this road coming through my back yard. Will be an eye sore for sure. The noise will also cause many concerns in our neighborhood. How will the drainage and runoff be affected from this road running through such large wetlands? Why right next to upscale neighborhoods on both sides? Why not connect to 85th street for a half mile to Cliff then rout back to the same course?</p>	<p>We are evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed for the Veterans Parkway project, including potential noise, visual and wetland impacts. As needed, mitigation will be developed for potential noise or wetland impacts</p> <p>Hydraulic and hydrologic analysis is being performed and crossings and drainage on the roadway will be incorporated into the design.</p> <p>The Veterans Parkway corridor was established as part of the environmental analysis and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approvals in 2003 and 2012. Since that time, SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have worked closely with developers to preserve the right-of-way for the road corridor as development plats were submitted. Since 2012 development that has occurred has included the location of the road corridor.</p>
<p>We live on 77th just north of the planned road so it's basically close to our back yard....as you know several of the neighbors here in the Grand Prairie development are not too happy about having to see all the traffic and the lights and the noise that will damage our quality of life and our property value. We understand this has been planned for many years but that was back when this whole area was a developed field, so our question is there any way to re-think this project and move it south of 85th which is pretty much wide open fields. Short of that, what about providing burns and evergreen trees to reduce the noise and the visibility of traffic.as we've discussed before we don't believe there's enough room between the apartments to the south of our area and the walking path of the development south of Grand Prairie, so I would someone could measure that area and address how that would look at some meeting.</p>	<p>As you know, the Veterans Parkway corridor was established as part of the environmental analysis and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approvals in 2003 and 2012. Since that time, SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have worked closely with developers to preserve the right-of-way for the road corridor as development plats were submitted. Since 2012 development that has occurred has included the location of the road corridor. We are currently evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed, including potential noise, visual, bike and pedestrian trail impacts. The project team is evaluating opportunities for visual breaks along the corridor.</p>
<p>Our biggest concern for our nice residential area is noise. We are hoping for a nice tall berm or some other solution (would improve sight a lot also). We have heard that the large homes south of this point have been guaranteed wonderful protection, and I am assuming we will have the same level? I don't mean to sound snide, but we are certainly hoping for something that will allow us to enjoy the wetlands between our house and the highway. Thank you.</p>	<p>The project team is evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed for the Veterans Parkway project, including potential noise impacts. The results of the analysis will be documented in the supplemental EA which will be publicly available later this year. If warranted, noise abatement options will be developed, analyzed, and provided to the public for review and comment.</p>



I congratulate you on your efforts to enhance travel around and in Sioux Falls via Veterans Parkway in your efforts to complete the southern section of Veterans Parkway. It will be a great asset to the city.

I moved from a small SD town to Sioux Falls 5 years ago to enjoy my retirement in Sioux Falls. I purchased a townhouse with a beautiful pond in my backyard where I could enjoy peaceful and quiet surroundings. I enjoy stargazing and studying the constellations and planets. I rise early in the morning and will often peer out during the dark hours of the night. Since moving here, there have been apartments built all around, which has negatively impacted the things I enjoyed much.

And now, I am faced with a very busy highway directly in my backyard which will leave me no enjoyment of what I spent half of my retirement savings on. Veterans Parkway will literally be in my backyard! I not only speak for myself but hundreds of people who are my neighbors and will also be directly impacted.

While doing the current Environmental Assessment please give serious consideration as to how the lives of those in this immediate area will be affected by the constant sound of traffic, sirens, semi's, motorcycles, speeders, and other noisy traffic. Light from headlights, street lights, light pollution and air quality and other safety issues. Those issues will be ongoing 24/7 and for years to come. Thousands of vehicles per day!

Not only will Veterans Highway impact humans, God's creatures who inhabit the wetlands will be greatly affected as the highway will pass through the wetlands. We have already lost the appearance of deer in this area as well as a decrease in the nesting geese which use the pond to raise their young. The area around the pond/wetlands is inhabited by turtles, mink, muskrat and rabbit.

From my vantage point, looking at the purposed area for the highway, which would be located from south edge of the pond, in our backyards-to the apartments/garages to the east, there does not appear to be adequate space for a 6 lane highway; median, shoulders and a pathway when making a comparison to the spaciousness of the northern sectional of Veterans Parkway, Highway 11.

People ask why the highway must come through this immediate

Thank-you for your comments. The Project Team will take your comments into consideration as we progress through the environmental re-evaluation and design. As mentioned, the Veterans Parkway corridor has been included in the City's planning documents since 2003. SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have worked closely with developers to preserve the corridor which has been incorporated into the adjacent development plans. At this time, our project team is evaluating changes that have occurred since the previous environmental analysis was completed for the Veterans Parkway project, including potential impacts to wetlands and wildlife habitat. The results of the analysis will be documented in the supplemental EA which will be publicly available later this year.



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<p>area when there appears to be open spaces to the south of 85th street. The highway could bypass all of this residential living and re-routed to the south and possibly make a large gentle curve to join I29 instead of jogs in the highway. I have no idea of how to build a highway. I know you folks are the engineers, highly educated in major projects such as building and designing highways and road construction. I am confident that at some point though, there will be a Representative from your group that will take an in-depth and close-up walk through this location for further review before ruining our current lifestyles.</p>	
<p>I am a resident in GPE. Putting a 6 lane road with a 50 to 55 mph speed limit between the berm that is owned by our HOA and the new homes being built on 77th street is not only ridiculous but extremely dangerous. Its a small part of the project and should be considered to be re-routed as to eliminate the eminent danger of the proposed location. It is already affecting the sale of my home. I purchased this home with the intent to not loose value. I'm seeing the impact already. What are you willing to do to make up the loss of value of my home if you proceed with the proposed plan?</p>	<p>The Veterans Parkway corridor has been included in the City's planning documents since 2003 when the need for and location of an additional roadway to was documented as part of the environmental study for Sioux Falls East Side Corridor. SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have worked closely with developers to preserve the corridor which has been incorporated into the adjacent development plans.</p>
<p>I'm seriously concerned that the project as planned does not consider the ultimate need for a limited access freeway. I believe there is a need to plan for a separated grade interchange at each of the crossings especially at Minnesota Ave. As Harrisburg continues to grow, there will be a need for high flow north-south corridors through the center of the metro area. A key to long term sustainability will be minimizing the required number of signalized at-grade intersections on both Minnesota Ave and Veterans Pkwy to handle the ultimate needs of the area. Even if the at-grade intersection(s) could last 20+ years, it is foolish not to plan to have the right-of-way needed to ultimately provide for additional separated grade interchanges in the future. It would be wise to do this at all intersections, but it is imperative to do so at Minnesota Ave. in particular so that development does not occur right up to the existing intersection making it extremely costly to upgrade it in the future.</p>	<p>Grade separated interchange options were considered as part of the alternatives analyzed in the 2003 and 2012 environmental assessments. Traffic analysis identified at-grade intersections, including at Minnesota Avenue, would provide an acceptable level of operations through the 2050 planning horizon; thus the expense and additional right of way impact to construct grade separated interchanges were not warranted and would make the Project cost prohibitive. The traffic analysis is being updated to verify those results.</p>



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<p>This project needs to move farther south with the connection to I29, there's too much residential and commercial development in the proposed pathway now. Have it connect at exit 68 the Parker/Lennox exit, makes way more sense for future development!!</p>	<p>The Veterans Parkway corridor was first studied in 2003 when the need for and location of an additional roadway to was documented as part of the environmental study for Sioux Falls East Side Corridor. The location was reaffirmed in 2012. The project team is evaluating changes that occurred since 2012 and is updating traffic analysis to determine if the road corridor location continues to serve the future development needs of the area.</p>
<p>I am concerned that residential construction did not leave room for adequate buffering of noise and flying debris from a highway. Please contact me as I would like to know what buffering is planned. This affects 2 sides of my property and I understand a bridge will be going within a hundred yards of my home.</p>	<p>The Veterans Parkway corridor was first studied in 2003 when the need for and location of an additional roadway to was documented as part of the environmental study for Sioux Falls East Side Corridor. The location was reaffirmed in 2012. The right-of-way is the same width as the completed corridor from 57th Street north to I-90 and is 200' wide.</p> <p>Thank-you for your comment regarding debris. The Project Team will take this into consideration as we move forward in the Project.</p>
<p>Why does the highway jog up towards 95th street and the North Middle School? Why not keep it along 271st longer and turn up like around Western?</p>	<p>The goal is to allow access to the corridor only at each arterial intersection. For this reason, Veterans Parkway was to be in a corridor that would not affect street access to current residents along County Road 106. The Harrisburg School District was aware of the planned corridor and developed their site to accommodate Veterans Parkway.</p>
<p>Why is the proposed route taken through many housing developments instead a few miles south on 85th where there is open farmland. This makes no sense!</p>	<p>The Veterans Parkway corridor was first studied in 2003 when the need for and location of an additional roadway to was documented as part of the environmental study for Sioux Falls East Side Corridor. The location was reaffirmed in 2012. SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have worked closely with developers to preserve the corridor which has been incorporated into the adjacent development plans for the recently constructed developments.</p>
<p>Do you think that building the segment from Western Ave to Cliff Ave on marsh land is smarter and more cost effective than moving the route 1 mile to the south where it is farmland?</p>	<p>The Veterans Parkway corridor was first studied in 2003 when the need for and location of an additional roadway to was documented as part of the environmental study for Sioux Falls East Side Corridor. As part of the analysis completed for these projects, a review of potential impacts to wetlands was completed in compliance with associated environmental regulations. It was determined that the corridor would have the least impact to wetlands as compared to alternative alignments. Wetland delineations is also being performed to determine the boundaries of the wetlands. If there are impacts to the delineated wetlands, the impacts will be mitigated in accordance with applicable environmental regulations.</p>



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<p>To Whom it may concern, I sent this letter during the public forum and have yet to hear back from the City. We would appreciate clarification on the highway and the sound barriers and berms that will be in place. We are being told from fellow neighbors that there will be no berms placed on the south side of the highway which is extremely concerning. We would appreciate further clarification on this:</p>	<p>The current plan for the corridor is to install a berm along the south side between the shared-use path and the property line. Along the north side, there is currently no berm planned. We are in the process of performing a noise analysis and, if determined necessary, options for creating a noise barrier will be developed and presented to the public for input.</p>
<p>After watching the informational public forums, we are still perplexed as to why the current location of the parkway is still deemed the best route. The proposed location cuts through a higher end neighborhood which will dramatically decrease the property values of these residents. The area just south of 85th street would be a much better location for the parkway. There is minimal development in this area which would allow for less disruption to the Grand Prairie, as well as better accommodate the southern growth of Sioux Falls and its residents. The area thru Grand Prairie where the highway is currently projected would be more suitable as a community park. Sioux Falls is lacking on parks with greenery space such as what McKennan Park has to offer in central Sioux Falls. This would be a great opportunity to develop a beautiful nature reserve area for families to enjoy.</p>	<p>The Veterans Parkway corridor was first studied in 2003 when the need for and location of an additional roadway was documented as part of the environmental study for Sioux Falls East Side Corridor. The location was reaffirmed in 2012. SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls have worked closely with developers to preserve the corridor which has been incorporated into the adjacent development plans for the recently constructed developments.</p>
<p>I have concerns on the how the size of the proposed highway will fit between the grand prairie and grand prairie estates neighborhoods at this tight junction without ending up essentially in peoples backyards.</p>	<p>The roadway will fit within the limits of current property lines between Grand Prairie and Grand Prairie Estates with only very minimal temporary impacts during construction.</p>
<p>I know finances are a problem but this project isn't looking far enough to the future. Otherwise its looking good.</p>	<p>Thank-you for your comment. The roadway geometrics (number of through lanes and turn lanes) are based on the corridor's ability to accommodate traffic through the at least year 2050.</p>



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<p>Wondering when we can start seeing public informational meetings regarding the Veterans highway expansion. With this project slated to begin construction in 2023, it seems like the timeline to address public concerns is going to be very short. I'm very concern about Sound Abetment issues, visual impact, housing values impact for my neighborhood that exits right on the edge of this project.</p>	<p>Thank you for reaching out to the South Veterans Parkway project team. Your comment is well-timed. We actually opened our first virtual public meeting today, April 29. You'll find video messages, project information, and an interactive comment map at www.southveteransparkway.com. We're accepting comments related to this public meeting through May 29, 2021. However, we welcome your comments beyond the public meeting, too. Reach out to us any time, and please take some time over the next couple weeks to add your comments about sound abatement, visual impacts, and housing values into the interactive map or send us more detailed thoughts through the same comment form.</p> <p>Let us know if you have questions about the virtual public meeting or submitting comments to the Project team.</p>