

Sunset series



Sunset Drive today

An aging roadway in need of a redesign and reconstruction

Sunset Drive (County Road 51) is a mile-long road along the West Arm of Lake Minnetonka. It's the address for several homes and businesses.

But it's also a link among the lakes for people to access nearby cities, like Spring Park, Mound and Wayzata, as well as recreational areas like Lake Minnetonka, Thor Thompson Park and the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.



As it currently exists, Sunset Drive has several issues:

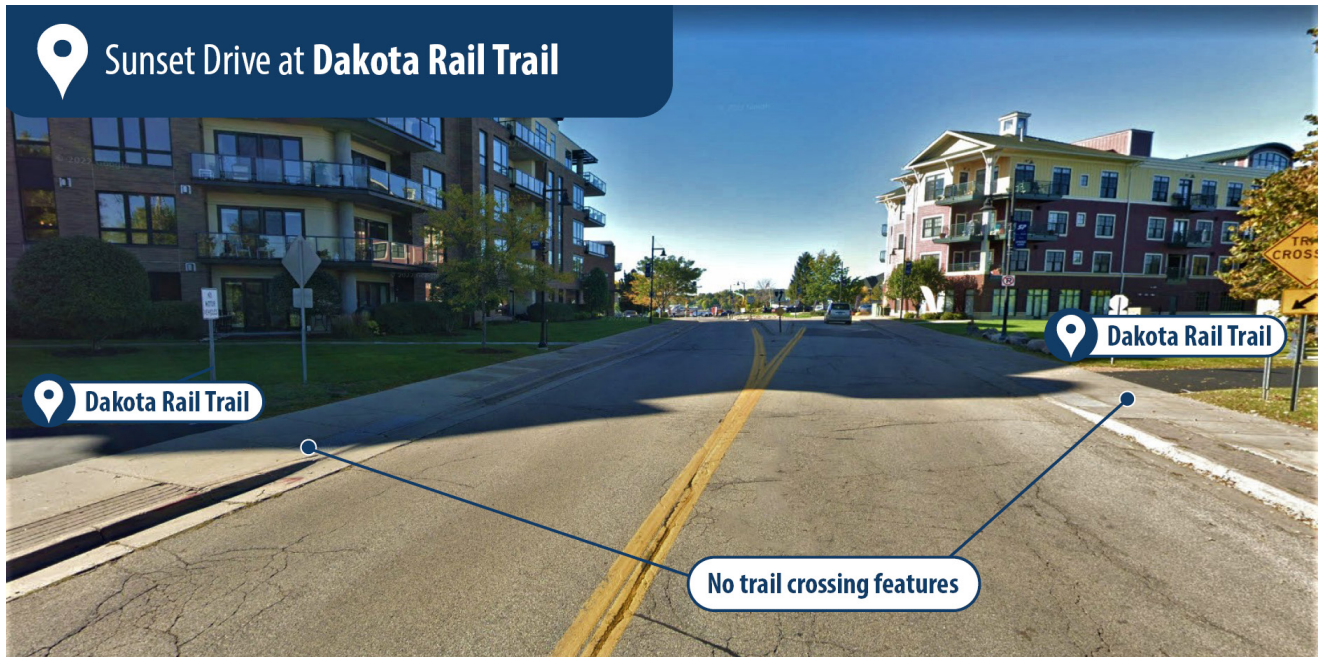
- **The roadway is more than 50 years old.** When a road reaches this age, it becomes more and more challenging to simply repave a road. Base layers and the ground underneath often need attention.
- **Utilities are almost 60 years old.** At this point, pipes that supply water and handle wastewater need to be replaced. Leaving them "as is" increases the likelihood that the roadway will need to be dug up to fix issues with pipes.
- **The current layout lacks good stormwater drainage.** When stormwater can't drain properly, you see issues like standing water and – over time – erosion. In some cases, it means the same water that comes off the roadway could end up directly in the lake, carrying any chemicals, oils or sediments with it.
- **There's no space or features for people who may be walking, biking or rolling.** While having a good roadway is important for people driving, more people are looking to use roadways to travel other ways. Not having space for people to walk, bike or roll reduces the ability for people to access nearby destinations, trails and local businesses. We will talk more about this when we cover Complete Streets in an upcoming Sunset Series message.

Share your thoughts using the online comment map at www.hennepin.us/sunset-drive

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Sharing your vision for a better Sunset Drive

If you haven't yet shared your thoughts or ideas, we still want to hear from you!

We want to know what elements – like trails, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and beacons, accommodations or people with accessibility needs, wayfinding signage and other amenities – could make this road better for you and others.

Use our comment map

Many of you already given our project staff insight to visualize a better Sunset. Thank you. But if you haven't yet, you can share your ideas and thoughts about how we can create a better Sunset Drive by using our [interactive comment map](#).

Our next steps include working on an initial design using your input and our project goals to share this spring. Ultimately, we want to make Sunset Drive a safe, convenient, and comfortable way to travel for users of all ages, abilities and modes of transportation.

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