



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Elton Hills Dr NW Traffic Study and Alternative Selection

MEETING DATE:

July 20, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

Public Works

AGENDA SECTION:

Reports and Recommendations

PRESENTER:

Sam Budzyna

Action Requested:

Approving the design concept and advancing to final design a three-lane street with parking on both sides along Elton Hills Dr NW, from Broadway Ave N to 500 ft East of Assisi Dr NW - Project No. J7313.

Report Narrative:

In preparation for a 2027 mill and overlay project, a traffic study was completed to inform potential lane configurations and safety improvements along Elton Hills Dr NW from Broadway Ave N to 500 ft east of Assisi Dr NW. A total of 14 options were evaluated, including several three-lane options, four-lane options, and a five-lane option. These included multiple parking configurations and a variety of bicycle facilities. After community engagement and a June 22, 2026, study session, there are three options still under consideration:

Option 1: Three lanes with parking on both sides.

Option 2: Three lanes with a two-way cycle track and parking on one side.

Option 3: Four undivided lanes with parking on both sides and curb extensions at intersections.

City teammates recommend approval of Option 1. Approval of this concept will allow Public Works to proceed with the final design. Construction is expected to start in May 2027.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Quality Services

Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:

Option 2, with a two-way cycle track on one side, is in alignment with the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for what can be achieved with a retrofit project to fill in a top 10 near term gap in the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Bicycle Network, and this option is supported by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. However, this option would provide challenges for maintenance, transit operations, and garbage collection. Long-term, the ATP suggests a full reconstruction project would include converting the bicycle facility to a fully protected off-street facility.

Either of the three lane options (Options 1 and 2) are expected to provide safety and traffic calming benefits for all users including drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:

May 16, 2016: Council tabled a durable pavement markings contract that included restriping Elton Hills

Dr NW with bike lanes.

June 6, 2016: Council removed from the table and approved the durable pavement markings contract, but excluded the changes to Elton Hills Dr NW.

May 20, 2019: Council Initiated Action directed staff to develop a plan for safety improvements on Elton Hills Dr NW and Assisi Dr NW consistent with previous staff recommendations (referring to the 2016 restriping plan).

August 19, 2019: Study Session regarding the recommended approach to traffic analysis on Elton Hills Dr NW.

December 9, 2019: Neighborhood open house to discuss results of the traffic study.

December 16, 2019: Study Session with staff recommendations for safety improvements on Elton Hills Dr NW.

August 11, 2025: Council approval of contract with Alliant Engineering, Inc. to complete an updated traffic study.

May 20, 2026: Neighborhood Meeting to discuss traffic study results and potential options.

June 22, 2026: Study session presenting results of traffic study and public engagement, with staff recommendations on key decision points.

Fiscal & Resource Impact:

The total project budget is \$2,089,500, as adopted in the 2026-2027 six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP):

\$1,589,500 of project reserves in Elton Hills Dr NW Resurfacing - Project No. J7313 (funding source is Tax Levy allocated to Annual Bituminous Street Rehabilitation, Resurfacing and Preservation - Project No. J2201)

\$500,000 of State Aid in Elton Hills Dr NW and West River Pkwy NW Intersection Improvements - Project No. J6072.

Alternative Action(s):

1. Approving the design concept and advancing to final design a three-lane street with parking on the south side and a two-way cycle track on the north side of Elton Hills Dr NW, from Broadway Ave N to 500 ft East of Assisi Dr NW - Project No. J7313.
2. Approving the design concept and advancing to final design a four-lane undivided street with parking on both sides along Elton Hills Dr NW, from Broadway Ave N to 500 ft East of Assisi Dr NW - Project No. J7313.

Prepared By:

Sam Budzyna

Attachments:

[Presentation - Elton Hills Dr NW Improvement Project](#)

[Exhibit - Elton Hills Dr NW Option Concepts](#)

[Exhibit - Letter of Support from Rochester Public Schools](#)

[Exhibit - Elton Hills Drive NW Traffic and Safety Study](#)