



City of Bloomington Engineering Department

Date: June 16, 2025

To: Dunn Street Residents, Property Owners, and Other Interested Parties

From: Neil Kopper, City of Bloomington Engineering Department

Subject: N Dunn Street Multiuse Path Project Update

Summary

This document provides a brief project update, including a summary of initial project decisions and public input, for the North Dunn Street Multiuse Path project. This information will also be posted on the project website at:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/engineering/projects/northdunnpath>

Initial Project Scope

This project was prioritized by the Metropolitan Planning Organization to receive federal funding supporting construction of a multiuse path on North Dunn Street from the Indiana 45 Bypass to East Clover Lane. Local funding for the design of this project was prioritized by the City Council through a 2022 general obligation bond. This project is intended to improve connectivity to multiple destinations including the Matlock Heights Neighborhood, Blue Ridge Neighborhood, and Griffy Lake Nature Preserve.

Project Feedback & Status Update

An initial public meeting was held on March 27, 2025 to provide information about the project and to gather public input which will aid in the development of the project. Comments were collected during and after this meeting. The following list summarizes the most frequent comments received and comments directly related to initial project decisions.

- Project Limits

- *Public comment/question:* Request for this project to construct a multiuse path along the northern section of North Dunn Street, connecting to the existing path adjacent to the dam and Old State Road 37, as a higher priority project as compared to the planned southern section. Staff received numerous comments both for and against this proposal.
- *Response:* As a result of this request, the project's engineering consultant evaluated the routing of the northern section of path as well as prioritization of the two sections. After this evaluation, it was determined that this project will focus on the southern section of North Dunn Street, from the Indiana 45 Bypass to East Clover Lane.

The primary intent of this project is to provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity from northern neighborhoods (Matlock Heights and Blue Ridge) to the rest of the City, as well as provide a connection to the Griffy Lake trail system. Constructing a multiuse path on a different northern section also has benefits, but will not accomplish these project goals. By first connecting to an existing multiuse path network, Indiana University, and the majority of the City's population, this southern section is expected to provide higher initial benefit.

Design staff are performing preliminary design review for the northern section of the path in conjunction with the southern section to ensure coordination between the two phases. It is anticipated that the northern terminus of this project at Clover Lane will include an improved crosswalk for users to connect from the multiuse path into the Blue Ridge neighborhood. Alternately, users will be able to connect from the project's northern terminus into the Griffy Lake trail system.

- Side of the Street
 - *Public comment/question:* Staff specifically requested input regarding factors that should be considered when choosing the side of the street for this project.
 - *Response:* The multiuse path will be constructed on the east side of Dunn Street. This decision was reached after reviewing public input and existing conditions. Factors considered in the decision include utility locations, cost, housing setbacks and impacts to existing residences, and presence of historic properties.
- Traffic Calming
 - *Public comment/question:* Request for traffic calming on North Dunn Street to reduce high motor vehicle speeds.
 - *Response:* This project will evaluate opportunities for traffic calming, particularly at locations where crosswalks across Dunn Street would be beneficial. More comprehensive traffic calming efforts along the length of the street are not within the scope of this project.
- Griffy Lake Trailhead
 - *Public comment/question:* Request for improved trailhead and connection to Griffy Lake.
 - *Response:* This project can accommodate a modest trailhead near its terminus at Clover Lane. The trailhead may include amenities such as signage, bicycle racks, benches, or other features. The trailhead would not include a motor vehicle parking lot. The trailhead will connect to the existing natural surface trail system at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. No bicycles or motor vehicles are permitted on the natural surface trails.

Next Steps

In order to proceed with detailed evaluations and design, workers will begin gathering topographic survey information. Property owners may receive a letter providing advanced notice of this survey work. Project staff will continue to consider all of the project input collected to this point as preliminary engineering work proceeds. Future updates and opportunities to review a more detailed design proposal will be advertised using the email list used to distribute this document. Please contact Neil Kopper (koppern@bloomington.in.gov) if you would like your email address added to that list.

Thank you for taking the time to submit preliminary design comments for the project. Your comments will help the design move forward in a way that minimizes possible negative effects, while allowing us to take advantage of the positive impact this project will have on the north side of Bloomington. We hope you stay involved and provide additional comments as the project moves forward into a more refined design phase.