

**SOUTHWEST ARTERIAL SCOPING STUDY – STEARNS COUNTY
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM**

	Who	Purpose	Roles	Number of Meetings
Stearns County Board and St. Joseph/Waite Park City Councils	All Council Members and Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide policy direction ▪ Adopt study provisions ▪ Approve Scoping Document (Stearns County – Responsible Governmental Unit [RGU]) ▪ Approve final Scoping Decision Document (SDD) (Stearns County – RGU) ▪ Complete implementation activities 	<p>At critical project milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider AC input and recommendations ▪ Provide comments ▪ Offer policy direction ▪ Approve scoping study products ▪ Implement recommendations with other governing bodies 	7 meetings
Project Management Team (PMT)	<p>Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stearns County Engineer ▪ Stearns County Assistant Engineer ▪ St. Cloud APO Director ▪ St. Joseph City Administrator ▪ Waite Park Public Works Superintendent ▪ Mn/DOT District 3 State-Aid Engineer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide contract administrative review ▪ Provide early technical review of work tasks and alternatives (layouts, evaluations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate overall administrative process ▪ Review monthly billings/reports ▪ Monitor schedule ▪ Consider contract amendments ▪ Review alignment alternatives (layouts, assessment matrix) ▪ Comment on draft scoping document 	10 meetings
Advisory Committee (AC)	<p>Elected and Senior Technical Staff of Decision-Making Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stearns County Engineer ▪ St. Cloud APO Director ▪ Stearns County Commissioner ▪ Waite Park Public Works Superintendent ▪ Waite Park City Council Representative ▪ St. Joseph Administrator ▪ St. Joseph City Council Representative ▪ St. Cloud Planning Director ▪ Sartell Representative ▪ St. Joseph Township Representative ▪ Mn/DOT District 3 State-Aid Engineer ▪ FHWA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guide overall scoping study process ▪ Digest input, participate in technical analysis ▪ Make scoping study recommendations to County Board and City Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review data ▪ Participate in technical analysis ▪ Solicit and consider public input ▪ Participate in alignment development and evaluation ▪ Recommend scoping decisions and network back to local partner groups 	4 meetings
Focus Groups	<p>Public/Private Stakeholders from Study Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St. Joseph and Waite Park Planning Commissioners ▪ St. Joseph and Waite Park EDA Staff ▪ St. Joseph and Waite Park Chamber Representatives ▪ Development Interests ▪ Key Property Owners ▪ Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide input on scoping study issues and opportunities ▪ Provide feedback on range of alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide input on needs, issues, constraints, opportunities early in study process, and again on alignment alternatives during the evaluation process ▪ Group meetings will offer a communication opportunity where concepts can be discussed among stakeholders with diverse interests ▪ Focus group feedback will be recorded and provided to AC for their consideration during the study process 	2 meetings
Open House Workshop and Public Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage public participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an opportunity for the general public to participate in the scoping process (development of purpose and need and identification of the range of alternatives) ▪ Open house workshop input at critical study milestones will be recorded and provided to the AC ▪ Public meeting to review the Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document (SD/DSDD) 	3 meetings
Agency Contacts and Meetings	<p>Participating Federal, State, and Local Agencies (Cooperating and Participating Agencies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FHWA ▪ Mn/DOT State Aid ▪ Federal Agencies (Corps of Engineers, EPA, USFWS, NRCS, AHCP) ▪ State Agencies (DNR, PCA, Dept. of Agriculture, BWSR, SHPO, Mn/DOT Trunk Highway) ▪ Local Gov't (Sauk River WD, Stearns Co. Env. Services, Cities of St. Joseph and Waite Park, St. Joseph Township, St. Wendel Township) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agency involvement in the project development and environmental review process, consistent with SAFETEA-LU requirements and guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participating in the Scoping and NEPA processes ⁽¹⁾ ▪ Identify any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts ⁽¹⁾ ▪ Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues ⁽¹⁾ ▪ Involvement in the development of the purpose and need statement ⁽¹⁾ ▪ Involvement in the development of the reasonable range of alternatives ⁽¹⁾ ▪ Review and comment on methodologies for assessing impacts as part of future EIS studies ⁽¹⁾ ▪ Solicit cooperating and participating agency comments during the scoping process (and if necessary, follow-up meetings will be held on specific issues) ⁽¹⁾ 	2 meetings (additional meetings if necessary)
Project Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons/Parties interested in the study results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an ongoing communication medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide study updates, AC minutes, meeting dates, technical data, and maps to assure that study information is readily available 	4 updates

⁽¹⁾ Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. *SAFETEA-LU Environmental Review Process Final Guidance.*