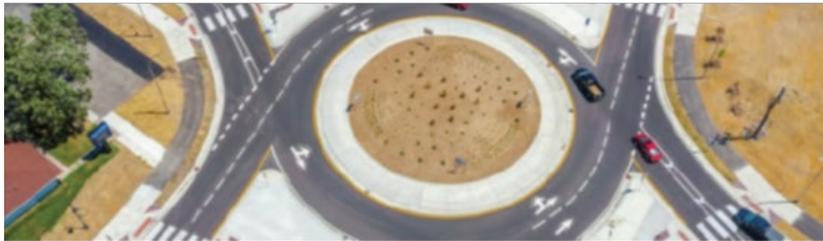




Congratulations ITE 2021 Award Recipient

TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – TRAFFIC ENGINEERING THE CITY OF PRIOR LAKE, MN

The City of Prior Lake, MN, has been selected to receive a 2021 Transportation Achievement Award in the category of Traffic Engineering for its “CSAH 21 Downtown Prior Lake Improvement Project.” The Transportation Achievement Awards recognize excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs, by entities concerned with transportation, such as governmental agencies, legislative bodies, consulting firms, and other industry organizations.



Scott County, in coordination with the City of Prior Lake, and MnDOT, established and implemented corridor improvements for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 21 and State Highway (TH) 13 in Downtown Prior Lake, MN. The

intersection and adjacent corridor needed improvement due to mobility and safety concerns associated with existing and forecasted traffic. The project evaluated potential improvements to intersections in close proximity to the CSAH 21/TH 13 intersection and considered traffic impacts on surrounding streets, pedestrian safety and accessibility. The Corridor Visioning Study helped identify how the intersection reconstruction project holistically fit into the future vision of the corridor and its surroundings.

The ultimate configuration was a $\frac{3}{4}$ access intersection at Duluth Avenue, a roundabout at Arcadia Avenue, followed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ access intersection at Main Avenue, and finally a roundabout at TH 13. This configuration improves traffic movement and safety alike. The two roundabouts prior to entering the Main Avenue intersection from both directions slow drivers through the heavily-traveled area of pedestrians and bicyclists. The improved aesthetics to the downtown area also create a sense of a destination when traveling between the roundabouts.

Balancing the competing needs of the local and regional transportation system through Downtown Prior Lake required a detailed review of engineering and planning measures to fully understand the benefits and deficiencies for a range of alternatives. The successes experienced with the project can be attributed to the partnership and compromise of Scott County, City of Prior Lake, and MnDOT to find a solution each agency could accept. This meant understanding how each of the more than 12 corridor alternatives initially reviewed—later narrowed to four—aligned with the agency's goals.