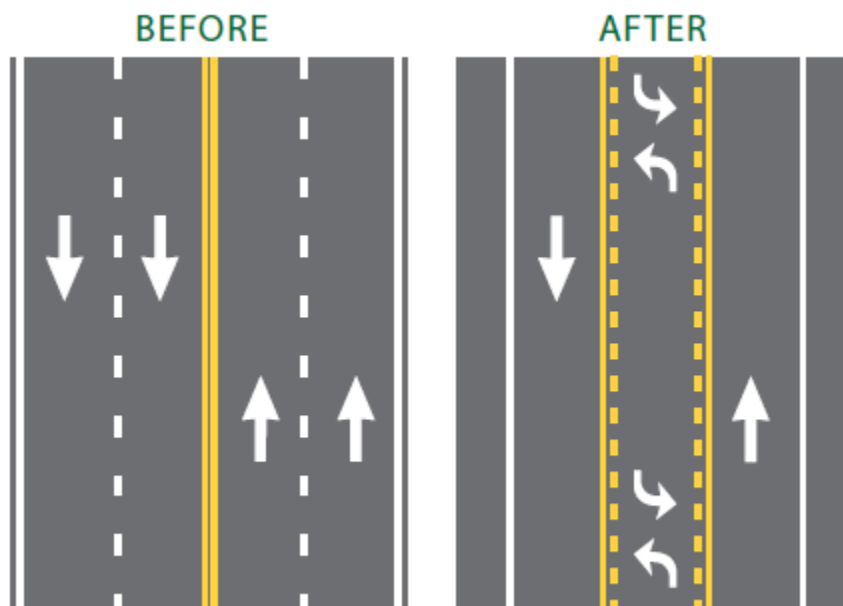


Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council
From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer
Date: March 16, 2022
Subject: 81st Avenue restriping

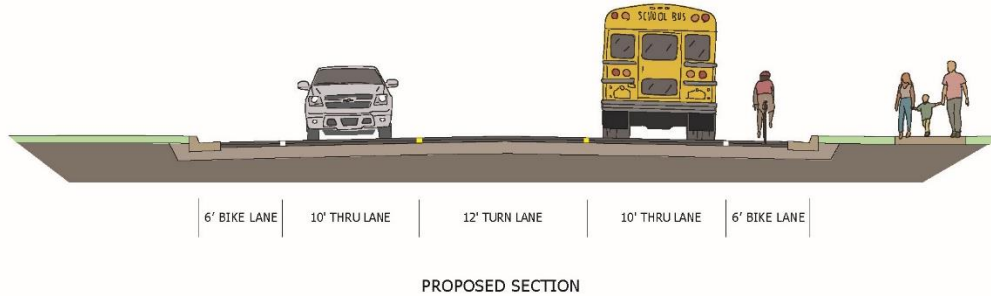
81st Avenue, between Old Central (CSAH 35) and Pleasantview Drive, is scheduled to be sealcoated in 2022. With the sealcoating comes the opportunity to look at an alternative traffic lane configuration for this segment.

The current traffic configuration of 81st Avenue NE between Old Central and Pleasantview Drive is a four-lane undivided roadway. Staff is proposing transitioning this segment into a three-lane undivided road, which consists of two through traffic lanes and a two-way left-turn lane in the center. The graphic shown below depicts the proposed change.



The center turn lane reduces the number of conflict points by removing left turning vehicles from the thru lane. Fewer conflict points along a three-lane section ultimately reduces the total number of crashes and counter rear-end, right angle, and head-on crashes. The Federal Highway Administration cites studies showing a 19 -47% reduction in overall crashes when a three-lane

section is installed un a previously four-lane undivided roadway. The three-lane also has a modest traffic calming effect by reducing speeds, while free space for alternative transportation modes.



Three-lane undivided roads can accommodate up to 20,000 vehicles per day. This segment of 81st Avenue currently experiences traffic counts between 1,400 to 2,050 vehicles per day.

One further aspect is that this change is not permanent. If the three-lane roadway does not function well, the striping can be ground off and a current roadway layout can be reestablished.

Staff has included additional information on this roadway segment for your information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.