

Lanesboro Highway 250 Reconstruction Project

Engagement Summary: Business Meetings

Highway 250 Reconstruction project staff from Bolton & Menk and MnDOT hosted one-on-one meetings with business and property owners in Lanesboro. These meetings centered around project scope and design, property-specific needs and questions, and potential construction details. Project staff met with 28 different businesses for 30 minutes each.



July – September 2025



28 meetings with local businesses and property owners

Meeting goals



Outline project scope and design features



Gather preliminary feedback on construction timeline and phasing



Learn more about parking use in the corridor



Discuss utility connections



Find ways to minimize business disruption during construction



Collect feedback

The feedback collected during the business meetings held between July and September 2025 will play an important role in shaping the construction staging plan and overall project schedule for the Lanesboro Highway 250 Reconstruction Project.

We deeply appreciate the time and insights shared by each participating business and property owner. These perspectives help us better understand local priorities, operational needs, and potential impacts.

However, while we will strive to incorporate this input wherever feasible, we want to be transparent that not all desired outcomes may be achievable. Project constraints—including engineering requirements, safety standards, budget limitations, and coordination with utility providers—may affect final decisions.

Our goal remains to minimize disruption and maintain clear communication throughout the project. We will continue to engage with stakeholders as planning progresses.



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What we heard

1. Project Timeline Preferences

Most businesses preferred a 1-year project timeline to minimize prolonged disruption. A few were open to a 2-year timeline if it meant better staging or avoiding peak seasons. Several businesses emphasized that timing matters more than duration, especially for critical intersections like CSAH 8.

2. Staging Preferences

Many supported completing the downtown phase first to restore core business activity quickly. Others preferred downtown work during off-peak seasons (spring or fall) to avoid summer tourism impacts. Businesses near CSAH 8 or reliant on truck traffic stressed the importance of keeping that intersection open or completing it early.

3. Minimizing Disruption

Common suggestions included maintaining access for customers, deliveries, and garbage collection; limiting noise during business hours, especially after 5pm; clear and frequent communication, especially through a contractor access manager; and avoiding peak tourism months (June–September) for major work.

4. Business Operations

Most businesses operate seasonally, with peak activity from May to October. Weekends are generally busiest, especially Saturdays. Several businesses have unique operational models like guided trips or performances that require special coordination.

5. Access and Deliveries

Front entrances are primary for most businesses. Some businesses have rear or side access that could be used during construction. Delivery schedules vary, but mid-week and midday are common. Businesses emphasized the need to preserve delivery access, especially for food service and retail.

6. Sidewalk Use

Many use sidewalks for sandwich boards, seating, or signage. A few noted ADA ramps or elevation differences that should be preserved or improved.

7. Parking

Most rely on street or public parking, a few have private lots or stalls. Parking availability during construction was a concern, especially for employees and guests.

8. Utilities

Water and sewer connections are typically in the basement. Very few reported past issues; some requested inspections or noted structural concerns.



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Attendees

Clara's Eatery

Commonweal Theatre

Crown Trout Jewelers

High Court Pub

Lanesboro Arts

Lanesboro Public Schools

Pedal Pushers Cafe

Sons of Norway

Stone Mill Hotel

Cottage House Inn

Granny's Liquor

Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce

Lanesboro Laundromat and Car Wash

Lanesboro Market

Preble Farmers Mutual Fire
Insurance Company

Root River Inn

Scandinavian Inn

Another Time Ice Cream

Lanesboro History Museum

Lanesboro Sales Commission

Merchants Bank

O'Leary's Bed and Breakfast

RLH Grain

Root River 102

Root River Rod Co.

Sylvan Brewing

Juniper's Restaurant

Root River Outfitters