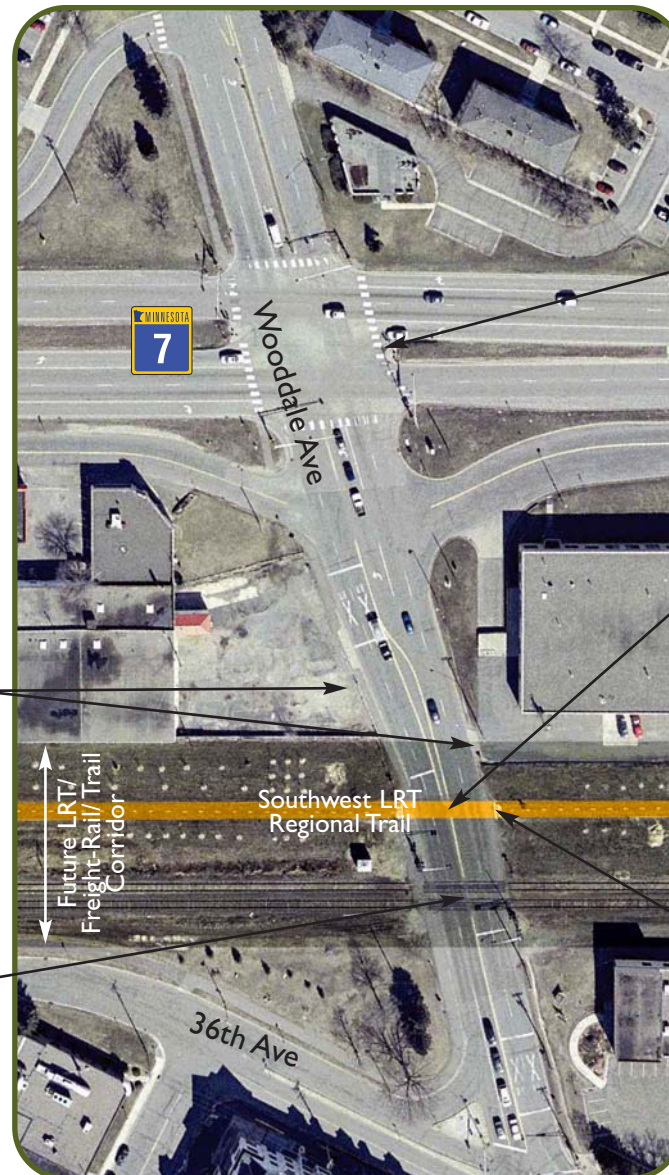


Crossing 7 & Wooddale: **Looking Forward**

Highway 7 & Wooddale Avenue Area: **Existing Conditions**

The City of St. Louis Park has received numerous comments regarding pedestrian/ bicycle access and mobility in and around the Highway 7/Wooddale Avenue area. As it exists today, this area poses challenges to pedestrian and bicyclist circulation.

In response to these comments, the City has developed this handout to explain their plans for improvements to area transportation infrastructure. On this page, existing conditions within the proposed reconstruction area are detailed. For an overview of the solutions to these challenges, please see the back of this flyer.



The crooked crosswalk is difficult to follow for visually impaired pedestrians.



- Difficult mid-block trail crossing
- Multiple lanes create difficult crossing for peds/bikes if all lanes of vehicles don't stop
- Refuge median for pedestrians/bicyclists improves the crossing of Wooddale Ave.



Narrow trail connection on both sides of Wooddale Avenue to Highway 7



Railroad crossing is inconsistent



No marked crosswalk - Vehicles are NOT required to stop for trail users

Proposed Highway 7 & Wooddale Avenue Bike and Pedestrian Improvements

Where Are We Today?

In 2007, the City of St. Louis Park retained SRF Consulting Group to study the feasibility of a bridge separating Highway 7 and Wooddale Avenue.

During the study, numerous factors were considered, including:

- Future Light Rail Transit, transit train station and park/ride facilities within and adjacent to the rail corridor
- Existing and future use/location of the Southwest LRT Regional Trail
- Existing and future use of area properties
- Desire for bicycle/pedestrian connections and accommodations in all directions
- Future of freight rail within the corridor

The study concluded that a bridge over Highway 7 of Wooddale Avenue would be most beneficial to the traveling public, and the City is moving forward with this initiative.

In addition to constructing a new bridge over Highway 7 on Wooddale Avenue, a number of improvements will be constructed, which are depicted in the illustration at right. These improvements will benefit vehicular traffic and provide better connections to surrounding neighborhoods and destinations for transit users, bicyclists, and pedestrians.



Where Are We Going?

As shown in the Project Timeline below, final design of the Highway 7/Wooddale grade separation will begin in July, with construction commencing in April 2009. However, the exact location of the existing freight/ light rail and regional trail within the rail corridor will not be finalized until after construction on the grade separation has started – these decisions will be made as part of Hennepin County's ongoing work on the Southwest LRT Environmental Impact Statement and associated planning.

Future improvements in this area are contingent on the outcome of the Southwest LRT studies and the availability of funding.

