

M-86 Colon: Future Bridge Replacement

Context

The bridge is located in the village of Colon in St. Joseph County. Colon is a picturesque town that has maintained much of its historic character.

Purpose and Description

The proposed project includes bridge and culvert replacement over Swan Creek in Colon.

Public Engagement

In February 2005, MDOT staff met with village officials regarding the project, to ensure that we heard their concerns and informed them of construction-related issues. Ongoing involvement with the village officials and residents is planned.

Challenges

The proposed bridge replacement project presents several challenges:

- A house in the southeast quadrant of the project is National Register eligible
- The property located north of the project will require archaeological investigation
- A school is located immediately east of the project area
- The village's central business district is located immediately west of the project area
- The bridge and culvert link village emergency services to the majority of the population
- The village has water mains running underneath the bridge



Context Sensitive Solutions Approach

The CSS process began internally, ensuring that all key MDOT staff understood the need for CSS on this project, and that all were on the "same page" before meeting with local officials. After quickly achieving that goal, MDOT conducted a meeting with village officials to discuss the key issues related to project construction, including the need and desire to construct the project within the context of surrounding properties and facilities. MDOT also gave village officials a chance to explain the key concerns they had identified through working with locally-identified stakeholders. During that meeting, several areas

requiring CSS were identified. Engineering will be addressing concerns regarding the water mains underneath the bridge, while planning and engineering will partner to address other design elements, including enhancement opportunities and sensitivity to historic structures.

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