

# The Design Process and You

## HIGHWAY 52 SOUTHBOUND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – CANNON FALLS TO ZUMBROTA

### Why this project?

An important transportation study set a path for development of a vision to transition the highway to freeway design with limited access. Through a public engagement process, MnDOT learned the public's top priority was repairing existing assets. In 2017, the Minnesota Legislature provided additional highway funds, enabling the project.

### Why does this corridor need improvements?

The Highway 52 Southbound corridor was constructed in the 1920s. Increased traffic necessitates safety improvements and aging pavement needs to be replaced.

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### How is the final project concept determined?

MnDOT's project process moves through several phases.

- 1: An examination of existing conditions looks at elements like crash history, traffic volumes, and project goals.
- 2: The concept development phase includes public engagement and input and the use of an evaluation matrix to rate various design options.
3. The selection of a “preferred alternative” design is made, which leads to a preliminary design process.

Throughout the phases, we also monitor budget and cost factors.

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### What will change in the corridor, and when?

New pavement, a new interchange at Hader, new bridges, limiting access or full direct crossings, and snow drift prevention measures will all increase safety and efficiency. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2021 and end in fall 2023.

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### What has been done to engage the public?

- Public Open Houses (3), in October 2018, February 2019, and June 2019
- Advisory Group meetings with panel of local leaders including township officials, in September 2018, February 2019, and June 2019
- Freight and agriculture forum in January 2019
- Emergency services and transportation providers forum in February 2019
- One-on-one outreach meetings with farming and trucking operations in February–March 2019
- Fire departments forum in April 2019
- Individual meetings with numerous property owners, in person and via phone

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### Keeping you involved

Public engagement and input is critical throughout the entire project. Please stay in touch with us through the contact information provided below. MnDOT is committed to working with the community and providing options for people to get involved.

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### Stay connected:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy52-hader-southbound-improvements/>

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TRANSPORTATION