

Willmar Rail Connector & Industrial Access Project

Willmar Wye

Project Summary

The Willmar Rail Connector and Industrial Access Project (Willmar Wye) will provide a direct connection between the Marshall and Morris Subdivisions of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail network. Providing this direct connection will decrease the number of trains that need to pull into the rail yard in downtown Willmar. The project also includes a rail spur that will provide access to the city of Willmar's industrial park.

The project includes the realignment of Highway 12 and the reconstruction of Highway 40, including two new bridges.

Project Benefits:

- Reduce the number of trains traversing through downtown Willmar and the accompanying noise.
- Encourage economic growth.
- Delay and emissions savings for travelers (e.g. drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists) by reducing the number of times waiting for crossings to clear.
- Improve quality of life.
- Improve safety for travelers by reducing at-grade crossing exposure.
- Increase multimodal opportunities for shippers.

Project Status

- Preliminary work starts April 3, 2019, with the removal of scrub trees, brush and stumps
- Construction begins as soon as the ground can be worked in spring 2019
- Contract awarded to the Hoffman Team

Project Partners

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
U.S. Department of Transportation
Kandiyohi County
City of Willmar
Kandiyohi County/Willmar Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Key milestones

- 1-*Draft* roadway layout completion (11/16)
- 2-Submission of *draft* EA for agency review (1/26/17)
- 3-Public hearing (2/23/17)
- 4-Negative Declaration (5/8/17)
- 5-Bid (design-build) letting (9/26/18)
- 6-Start of construction (Road - summer 2019, Rail – spring 2021)
- 7-Project completion (Fall 2022)

Project cost

- Estimated cost - \$50 million

Website

www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/willmarwye/index.html

Contact:

Paul Rasmussen, P.E.

Project Manager

MnDOT District 8

320-214-6320

p.rasmussen@state.mn.us