

News Release

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District 8 – Southwest MN announces 2017 construction program

WILLMAR, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Transportation announced its 2017 transportation construction program on Thursday, April 13. Statewide, the 2017 road and bridge projects total \$1 billion. For a complete list of projects, including construction dates and traffic impacts, visit www.mndot.gov/construction.

Locally, in District 8 (Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville & Yellow Medicine) the 2017 construction program totals \$35.4 million. The construction costs do not include other costs such as maintenance. All District 8 projects, including a 2017 construction project map, are available at www.mndot.gov/d8/projects.html. Motorists can stay informed about projects and other transportation topics by connecting to MnDOT via social media, as well as signing up to receive email updates.

2017 road and bridge projects starting early

With favorable weather many projects are starting early:

- Highway 22 – Litchfield: resurfacing of Highway 22 from the intersection of Highway 7 & Highway 22 near Cedar Mills to south of Litchfield, replacement of culverts and construction of turn lanes. Originally scheduled to begin in May. Will start April 17, 2017. A detour is required.
- Highway 4 – Grove City: resurfacing of Highway 4 from 220th Street to south of the railroad tracks in Grove City. Originally scheduled to begin in July. Will start April 24, 2017.
- Highway 277 – Gluek: bridge replacement. Originally scheduled to begin in July. Will start May 1, 2017. A detour is required

Project highlight

District 8 will be constructing a roundabout at the intersection of US 71 and Highway 7 near Blomkest. This roundabout is one of thirteen projects that received funding as part of a \$9 million dollar statewide program targeted towards improving safety on Minnesota highways. The crashes that have occurred at this intersection have been severe. The project will improve safety and reduce delays. Construction on the roundabout is set to begin in June and be completed in October. US 71 will remain open during the construction.

Watch for orange cones

Because of the number of work zones motorists will encounter as crews perform road construction and maintenance work this construction season, MnDOT asks drivers to be alert on the road this summer. MnDOT urges motorists to:

- Check www.511mn.org for up-to-date information about traffic and road conditions
- Minimize distractions
- Follow posted speed limits; fines double in work zones
- Expect delays, especially during peak travel times

Plan ahead for your travel using 511. For statewide road conditions and construction information call 511 or visit www.511mn.org.

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