



Rebuilding Interstate 35 in Duluth 2009-2012





History of I-35

- Boundary Avenue to Mesaba Avenue built in 1960's and opened in 1970's
- Mesaba Avenue to 26th Avenue East opened in 1992
- Boundary Avenue to Mesaba Avenue at end of 40-year life span
- Mesaba Avenue to 26th Avenue East – major repairs at 15 - 20 years of age
- Roadway carries 40,000 vehicles a day



Project benefits

- One-time / long-term fix for I-35
- Pavement replacement
- Safety improvements
 - Shoulders
 - Barrier
 - Improved sight distance
- Replacement of three fracture critical bridges





Project Timing

- Pavement is at critical point
- Mandate on fracture critical bridges.
- Funding is available to do all work
- Combining many projects into a two year project.





Project Cost

- **\$81 million (total)**
- **No city participation**
- **Funding**
 - **Federal (not stimulus)**
 - **State Bridge Bond (Chapter 152)**
 - **State Match**





2009 Work

- Replacement of bridges on I-35 over Hwy 2
 - EB Hwy 2 detoured via Boundary Avenue
- Replacement of concrete pavement on EB Hwy 2 at I-35 interchange
- Concrete panel replacement from Garfield to Mesaba Avenues (lane closures)
- Closure of NB I-535 ramp to NB I-35
- Closure of SB Mesaba Avenue ramp.





TH 2





I-35



Thompson Hill Barrier



Paper Mill Bridge Northbound



Recycle Way



New Recycle Way



Abandoned Soo Line Bridge



Deteriorated Concrete Pavement



Ore Docks Bridge – *Northbound*



Abandoned Soo Line near 27th *Looking Southbound*



Can of Worms



26th Avenue East



Area 3, Mesaba Ave to London Rd./34th Ave E. - Pavement Rehab, Intersection Replacement, culvert replacement (2010)

Area 2, Paper Mill to Garfield Ave - Reconstruct (2010 & 2011) 40th ramps (2012)

Area 1, Thompson Hill 2010 Rehabilitation. Cody Ramps in 2011.





2010 Work

- Repair of bridges and median barrier on Thompson Hill
- Replacement of bridges and pavement from Central Avenue to “Can of Worms”
- Pavement repairs from 5th Avenue West to 26th Avenue East
- Bridge repairs in “Can of Worms”





2011 Work

- Replacement of bridges at Paper Mill and Ore Docks
- Pavement replacement from 46th Avenue West to the “Can of Worms”
- Repairs and painting on bridges in “Can of Worms” interchange





2010 Traffic Impacts

- Closure of one direction of I-35 and diversion of traffic to the opposite lanes from Central Avenue to Garfield Avenue (May - October). ONE lane in each direction.
- Closure of one direction of I-35 and diversion of traffic to the opposite lanes from Boundary Avenue to Central Avenue (May – September) Direction will change.
- Ramp closures from Boundary Avenue to Garfield Avenue, including “Can of Worms”





2010 Traffic Impacts (continued)

- Lane closures from 5th Avenue West to 26th Avenue East
- Traffic restrictions at 26th Avenue East (July/August)
- Detour of trucks from Thompson Hill on I-35 to Midway Road, Highways 194 and Highway 53.





Ramps Totally Open - 2010

- **Boundary Avenue**
- **Cody Street**
- **40th Avenue West**
- **Mesaba Ave**
- **5th Avenue W/ Lake Ave**
- **21st Ave East**





Partial Interchange Restrictions- 2010

- Hwy 2 (Proctor)
- Central Avenue
- Bong Bridge / Hwy 2 - open to Wisconsin
- 27th Avenue West
- Can of Worms





Ramp Closures - 2010

- Grand Avenue - Hwy 23
- 26th Avenue East (July/August)
 - Detour to 21st Avenue East





Winter 2010-2011

All roadways and ramps open!



2011 Traffic Impacts

- **Closure of one direction of I-35 and diversion of traffic to the opposite lanes from Central Avenue to Garfield Avenue (May - October). ONE lane in each direction.**
- **Intermittent ramp closures from Central Avenue to Garfield Avenue including Can of Worms**
- **No truck detour**





Ramps Open - 2011

- Boundary Avenue
- Hwy 2 Proctor
- Grand Ave / Hwy 23
- 40th Avenue West
- Mesaba Avenue
- 5th Avenue West
- Lake Avenue
- 21st Avenue East
- 26th Avenue East





Partial Interchange Restrictions- 2011

- **Central Avenue**
- **Bong Bridge / Hwy 2**
- **27th Avenue West**
- **Can of Worms**





2012 Traffic Impacts

- **40th Avenue West ramps closed and reconstructed**
- **Completion by June 30, 2012**





Project Incentives

- Up to \$1.5 million for early completion
- Incentives based on segments
- \$20,000 / day





2010 Other Construction Work

- I-35 Moose Lake to Mahtowa – long-term lane closures
- Blatnik Bridge and Bong Bridge - single lane for several weeks for cable testing
- Second Street (Duluth) - 4th Avenue to 24th Avenue East
- Lester River Bridge – detour in July & Aug to Superior Street
- Mall area construction – complete by June 30, 2010





Alternate Routes

- ***Local drivers please use local routes.***
- ***Where will they go?***





DTA

- **FREE Express Routes from Zoo area**
- **Park & Ride lots**
- **Will use Grand Avenue parking lanes**





Motorist Assistance

- **Service Patrols**
- **Clear alternate routes**
- **Alternate Routes - Scenic 23**
- **Maps of alternate routes**
- **Coordination with Emergency Services**



Alternate Route Maps

**Alternate Route to Duluth Via
Hwy 33, 2, 53 and 194 to 5th Ave. West**



 Suggested Alternate Route





Motorist Assistance

- E-mail alerts
- Real time delay signing
- Website for real time traffic
- Mn 511
- Advance signing from Twin Cities
- **DULUTH AND THE NORTH SHORE ARE OPEN!**





Business Assistance

- Updated brochures - pdf formats
- E-mail alerts
- Business packets/Workshops
- Weekly meetings – Jim Sorenson, Business Liaison
- Project Information Line
- Logo link to website





Schedule

- **Project letting – April 2, 2010**
- **2010 Construction start date - approx. May 3, 2010**
- **2010 Construction end date – approx. October 15, 2010**
- **2011 Construction start date – approx. April 4, 2011**
- **2011 Construction end date – approx. October 14, 2011**





Website

www.dot.state.mn.us/duluthmegaproject





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QUESTIONS?

Ideas!

