

## Highway 23 North Gap (Paynesville to Richmond)

MnDOT will reconstruct and expand nine miles of Highway 23 from two to four lanes from Stearns County Road 33 in Paynesville to Highway 22/Grant Avenue Southwest in Richmond.

Highway 23 is an important interregional corridor and a key artery for the region's economy. It provides the primary east-west route connecting Willmar to Interstate 94 and beyond. The segment of Highway 23 between Willmar and I-94 is about 53 miles. Of these 53 miles, all but 16 miles have been constructed as four-lane roadway, so the 16-mile section of current two-lane is known as the Gaps. The northern nine-mile section is referred to as the North Gap and the southern seven-mile section is referred to as the South Gap.

The three-year Highway 23 Gaps expansion project received funding through the [Corridors of Commerce program](#) in May 2018. In addition to the North Gap, the Gaps project includes the expansion of Highway 23 from two to four lanes, from New London to Paynesville (South Gap), which will be constructed from 2023 to 2024. When the North Gap and South Gap sections are both complete, Highway 23 travelers will be able to experience four-lane travel from Willmar to Foley.



Expanding Highway 23 from two to four lanes will provide additional capacity, improve the movement of freight, and improve roadway safety. Expanding the highway would also provide the design consistency of a four-lane rural highway and help meet driver expectations throughout the corridor. This corridor-wide consistency further enhances the mobility and safety benefits already provided by the expansion.

## Summary of work

- Reconstruct and expand to four lanes (two lanes in each direction)
- Replace pipe under County Road 43
- Realign and improve access to/from the following Highway 23 intersections
  - 263<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
  - County Road 12
  - County Road 43
  - County Road 114
- Realign the highway curvature near Roscoe to improve sight distances
- Reconstruct one mile of Glacial Lakes State Trail near Richmond

## The Gaps project timeline

April 4, 2022 – North Gap construction begins

May 16, 2022 – North Gap main detour begins

Oct. 30, 2022 – North Gap main detour ends

2023            Year 2 of North Gap construction

2023            Year 1 of South Gap construction

2024            Year 2 of South Gap construction

## North Gap project cost

\$41.75 million

## North Gap project contractor

Mathiowetz Construction

## North Gap website

[mndot.gov/d8/projects/hwy23northgap](http://mndot.gov/d8/projects/hwy23northgap)

## North Gap project contacts

### **Mike Klasen, construction project manager**

MnDOT District 3 – St. Cloud

320-248-2294

[michael.klasen@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.klasen@state.mn.us)

### **Sandra Schlagel, public affairs coordinator**

MnDOT District 8 – Willmar

320-214-6362

[sandra.schlagel@state.mn.us](mailto:sandra.schlagel@state.mn.us)