

Duluth Area I-35 Corridor Plan

(402302)

Objective: *Prepare an I-35 Corridor Plan for the freeway between Midway Township and 26th Ave E in Duluth in coordination with MnDOT District 1. This study will engage the community in preparing a comprehensive plan that identifies system issues and needs, examines improvement scenarios, and selects and prioritizes improvements for staged implementation to satisfy local, state, and national transportation goals.*

Background:

I-35 is a limited access freeway that reached Duluth in 1971 and was completed through the downtown area in 1992. Portions of I-35 are approaching the end of its useful life (reconstruction of some segments of the interstate is now underway) and other segments are substandard relative to modern engineering design standards. A comprehensive examination of the corridor to identify and prioritize improvements is needed. Recognizing that limited funding places an emphasis on system maintenance, this study will position the MIC and MnDOT to incrementally address current and future priorities as funding resources become available over the course of the planning horizon.

Major Work Activities

- Existing and future conditions will be evaluated for the entire corridor, including interchanges, access ramps, frontage roads, and pedestrian and bicycle crossing facilities.
- Network safety and operations will be addressed as will maintenance needs, system resiliency, freight/transit/and other modal needs, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and social, cultural, economic, and environmental resources.
- The plan will position the freeway corridor to address evolving future needs including intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) readiness.
- The participation of a large and diverse group of stakeholders will guide development of the plan, creating a corridor vision from which prioritized recommendations will flow.
- Recommendations will synthesize past planning recommendations, community input, current multimodal guidance, and recent planning initiatives.
- The resulting comprehensive implementation plan will identify and prioritize asset management, maintenance needs, corridor improvements, and investment strategies.

Final Product: Comprehensive vision for the I-35 corridor that includes conceptual designs for short- and long-term amenity needs for the length of the roadway in the MIC planning area. An anticipated completion date is on or before December 31, 2023.

Budget

\$ 80,100 CY 2023 (MIC Budget includes an estimated 675 staff hours and \$35,000 for consultant)
Plus MnDOT State Funds providing an additional ~~\$80,000~~ \$174,956.84 for the consultant.
(Increase per Administrative Modification #1 dated 5.9.23)