Detours Ahead in 2024: I-494 Construction Impacts and Options (I-494 Design Build)

Webinar
March 13, 2024
Your questions, our answers

- A recording of this webinar and the slides will be emailed to all attendees within 10 days.

- Questions will be answered at the end of each presentation.

- To submit questions please:
  - Use the Q&A tool on Zoom to enter your written question.
  - Email questions after the webinar to Kate Meredith at kate@494corridor.org.

- Please refrain from using the Chat option to submit questions.
Commuter Services is the outreach program of the I-494 Corridor Commission

The I-494 Corridor Commission is a joint powers organization established in 1986 to address concerns about increasing traffic congestion along the I-494 corridor. Member cities include Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Minnetonka, and Richfield.

In fact:

- There are **more** jobs in this section of the I-494 corridor than anywhere else in the State of Minnesota, including the two downtowns - Minneapolis and St. Paul, combined.
- According to MnDOT, people from 85 of the state’s 87 counties travel this section of I-494 **every day**.
About our presenters

Tim Clyne is one of the MnDOT Construction Managers overseeing all of the grading and paving on the I-494 Design Build Project.

Tim is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Civil Engineering. He has been with MnDOT since 2005, working in various offices including the MnROAD Research Project and Metro District Materials.

His I-494: Airport to Highway 169 counterpart, Tera Rehnberg, manages the project’s bridge and wall structure elements.
About our presenters

Melissa Madison is Executive Director of the I-494 Corridor Commission and Commuter Services for the past 21 years.

Melissa is a graduate from Minnesota State University with a B.A. in political science.

She served on the national board of directors for the Association for Commuter Transportation for six years and was the president of the Midwest Chapter for four years. She served as vice chair of the National Telework Council for eight years.
• I-494 Airport to Hwy 169: Project Background
• 2023 Work Completed
• 2024 Work Proposed
  • I-494 / I-35W Roadway & Bridge Construction
  • Ramp Reconstruction & Realignment
  • Local Roadway & Utility Work
  • Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities
• Road & Ramp Closures / Detour Routes
• 2025 - 2026 Work Proposed
• I-494 River Bridge Project
• Project Contacts / Communication
I-494 Airport to Hwy 169 Project Update
Project Development

Pre-2001

2001

2009

2014

2017

Today

**20+ Years in the Making!**

- **2001 FEIS**
  - I-494 Reconstruction
  - Corridor: I-394 to Minnesota River

- **2001 Rescoping Project**
  - Looked at alternatives within the FEIS footprint.
  - Recommended a “turbine interchange” concept

- **2009 Interchange Vision Layout Development**
  - Looked at project phasing and Orange Line improvements

- **2014 I-494/Hwy 62 Congestion Relief Study**
  - Identified MnPASS lanes

- **Today I-494: Airport to Hwy 169 Project**
**Project Purpose**

Improve safety, mobility, travel time reliability, address asset conditions, and promote transit mobility on I-494 between TH 5 and US 169

**“In your opinion, what is most important for MnDOT to address when redesigning Interstate 494 from the Airport to Hwy 169? (Choose up to 3)”**
I-494 Airport to Hwy 169 Full Vision

E-ZPass from Hwy 169 to 24th Ave

I-494/I-35W interchange

Access changes at Nicollet, Portland and 12th
I-494 Edina to Richfield Project

- Project Location
- E-ZPass Lanes
- I-35W/I-494 Interchange
- Bridge Improvements
I-494 Edina, Bloomington, and Richfield – Turbine Ramp

Existing Interchange

New northbound I-35W to westbound I-494 flyover ramp
I-494 Edina, Bloomington, and Richfield – Project Benefits

- Improved safety
- Improved traffic flow and reduced congestion
- Improved bicycle and pedestrian accessibility
- Smoother road surface and extended pavement life
- Improved drainage
## I-494 Edina, Bloomington, and Richfield – Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add E-ZPass lanes</td>
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<td>I-35W/494 Interchange Work</td>
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<td>New Chicago Ave Pedestrian Bridge</td>
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<td>12th Ave Bridge Replacement</td>
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• Lots of temporary widening and crossovers, lane shifts
• Reconstructed EB I-494 from East Bush Lake Rd to Hwy 100
  • Including three ramps
• Reconstructed NW and NE ramps at I-35W, NW Lyndale ramp
• Began construction of Turbine bridge (NB 35W to WB 494)
• Removed 5 buildings at Portland Ave
• Began utility relocations
Overhead Sign Removal
Storm Sewer Installation
Unexpected Utilities

Electrical Conduit:
- 3 empty, 1 live

Abandoned storm sewer and manhole

Abandoned water mains
Wood power pole
Sanitary sewers

Electrical Conduit:
- 3 empty, 1 live
Temporary Bituminous Paving
Turbine Bridge (NB 35W to WB 494)
Winter 2023 - 2024 Work

- Complete design of remainder of project
- Some bridge construction and pipe jacking
- Continue with utility relocates
- Public outreach to local businesses and residents
- Prepare for very busy construction seasons the next 3 years!
2024 Construction Overview

- Reconstruct WB I-494 from East Bush Lake Rd to Hwy 100
- Reconstruct EB I-494 from Hwy 100 to Lyndale Ave
- Reconstruct American Blvd from Hwy 100 to France Ave
- Reconstruct EB I-494 Bridges over I-35W
- Construct Pedestrian Bridge at Chicago Ave
- Penn Ave & 82nd St, American Blvd & Lyndale
Other impacts:

- Occasional lane closures and weekend or overnight closures of I-494 and I-35W. Expect nighttime noise.
- Chute lane configuration between East Bush Lake Rd and Xerxes Ave (similar to last year).
I-494 Edina, Bloomington, and Richfield – 2024 Traffic Impacts
2025 - 2026 Construction

• 2025
  • WB 494 from Lyndale to Hwy 100
  • Complete 35W Interchanges at 494 and 82\textsuperscript{nd} St
  • Portland Ave Bridge & Interchange

• 2026
  • Nicollet Ave & 12\textsuperscript{th} Ave Bridges
  • Complete E-ZPass System
• Consultant contract to manage communications for the 3 MnDOT projects near MSP
  • I-494: Airport to Hwy 169 Design-Build Project
  • I-494: MN River Bridge
  • I-35W Pavement Preservation (complete)
• Public Information Hotline
  • info@i494Construction.com
  • 651-583-6435
• Visit the project websites
  mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494edina-richfield/index.html (construction)
  Sign up for project email updates (bottom right of page)
  mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/ (study)
  511mn.org (traveler information)
I-494 MN River Bridge Update
I-494 MN River Bridge - Project Map
I-494 MN River Bridge – Project Benefits

- Improved safety & accessibility
- Repair and extend life of bridges
- Provide smoother road surfaces & extend pavement life
- Improved drainage
I-494 MN River Bridge – 2024 construction

• Lane and ramp closures throughout project area
• 2 lanes each direction on eastbound bridge from Hwy 5 to Hwy 13
  • Full closure of westbound direction
• Temporary crossover installed under Hwy 5/I-494
• Surface repairs on bridges over loops (34th Ave and Hwy 5)
• I-494 will be reduced to one lane between 24th Ave and 34th Ave in both directions
• Public Information Hotline
  • info@i494Construction.com
  • 651-583-6435

• Visit the project website

dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494mnriverbridge
Questions?

Tim Clyne  
MnDOT I-494 DB Construction Manager  
651-775-1176  
timothy.clyne@state.mn.us
Solutions to ease your commute (and save your sanity)
Strategies and Commute Resources for Employers

- Host a Commuter Fair, e-Fair, Lunch and Learn or seminar
- Promote Try It campaigns through Commuter Services
- Promotion of commute options in a company newsletter, intranet posts, blogs or direct email
- Commute resources for new hires
- Sign up for our quarterly employer newsletter
- Sign up for our monthly commuter newsletter
- Poster outlining Commuter Services’ resources
- Display of commute resource materials with bus schedules
Bicycle commuting resources and strategies for employers

Employers can:

- Hold an on-site bicycle safety check
- Offer a Lunch and Learn or webinar on how to bike to work
- Provide showers and lockers
- Provide indoor or covered bike parking
- Offer bike repair materials: tire pump, patch kits, tools for fixing minor issues
- Purchase bicycles employees can use over lunch for errands or exercise

Commuter Services can help you:

- Provide free bicycle commute resources and bike trail updates
- Receive free outdoor bicycle rack from Commuter Services
- Use our demonstration bus bike rack so employees can learn how to place a bicycle on a bus bike rack in a no-stress environment
Bicycle commuting resources for commuters

- Sign up for Bike Trail Updates (email)
- Watch on-demand bike to work commuting webinars
- Ask for a demonstration on how to put your bike on transit
- Request free resources:
  - Bicycle Commuting Guide with tips for riding in traffic
  - Hennepin County Bike Map
  - Clothing recommendations
  - Winter Bike Commuting Guide
  - And more!
Transit resources for employers

- Offer Metropass discounted transit pass with unlimited rides
- Personalized transit information for your worksite: bus and train schedules, transit system maps
Transit pass for multi-family residential properties

- $14 per month for unlimited rides on buses and trains
- Each unit receives one pass
- Ask us for more information on this great program!
Transit resources for commuters

- Customized bus/train route itinerary with schedules plus **two free ride passes**
- Transit Assistance Program (TAP) information
- METRO System Brochure
- Transit system map
- Text for Safety
- Reloadable passes
Carpool assistance for employers

- Assist with formation of carpools and vanpools
- Create maps for employees to see how many people live near them for ride matching
- Conduct meetings to gather employees by home location to help form carpools and vanpools
- Provide carpool and vanpool preferred parking signs; we manage program for you
Carpooling for commuters

- Tips on how to set up a successful carpool
- Free carpool matching program
- Many employers offer preferential parking for carpools
- Other advantages:
  - Use HOV lane for free during peak hours with two or more riders
  - Save money on gas
Metro Vanpool: Employer advantages

- Commuter Services assists employers in setting up a vanpool program
- Metropolitan Council provides 50 percent subsidy on each vanpool
- Employers can choose to subsize
- Tax benefits
Metro Vanpool for commuters

- Ideal for longer commutes
- Need just four people to start vanpool
- 50 percent of each vanpool is subsidized by the Met Council
- Lease agreement between primary driver and Commute with Enterprise
- Lease includes maintenance, repairs, $1 million liability insurance, 24-hour roadside assistance
- Flexible: 30-day notice to leave or terminate
Free resources for employers, managers and teleworkers

Online, anytime: tctelework.com
Free telework/hybrid work resources

- Sample telework and hybrid policies
- Teleworker agreement
- Implementation guidance
- Consulting on best practices
- Training for managers on how to manage remote workers
- Ask the Expert
- On-demand webinars
- Mental health resources
- Ergonomic and home office recommendations
- FOMO resources for managers and teleworkers
- Quarterly Telework Trends newsletter
- And many more telework/hybrid resources
More resources for commuters and employers

Guaranteed Ride Home
- Provides “a safety net” for commuters who take sustainable commutes three or more days per week
- Paid for by the Metropolitan Council, free to the commuter
- Registered participants get up to $100 annually in rides (Uber, Lyft, transit, etc.)

Stay in the know with our newsletters

**Commuter newsletter:** Monthly email, features regular updates on all road construction projects along with transit, bike commuting and telework news
- Sign up at: [494corridor.org](http://494corridor.org)

**Employer newsletter:** Quarterly email with information about sustainable commute programs, road construction updates, transit improvements and more
- Sign up by emailing Kate Meredith: kate@494corridor.org

**Twin Cities Telework newsletter:** Quarterly email featuring telework and hybrid trends, best practices, tips to start and maintain your work from home programs, and more
- Sign up at the Twin Cities Telework website: [tctelework.com](http://tctelework.com)
Questions?
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Thank you for joining us