

BEMIDJI CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, September 22, 2025

City Hall
317 4th Street NW
5:30 PM



1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2. BUSINESS
 - a) MnDOT TH 197 Update

3. ADJOURN

MEMBER ATTENDING REMOTELY

COUNCILMEMBER THAYER WILL BE ATTENDING VIA WEBEX UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 13D.02. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY MONITOR THE MEETING BY ACCESSING THE REMOTE MEETING LINK ON THE CITY WEBSITE
<https://bemidjimn.portal.civicclerk.com/>

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM



Meeting Date: September 22, 2025
Action Requested: MnDOT TH 197 Project Update
Prepared By: Samuel C. Anderson City Engineer/DPW

Background:

MnDOT and the City submitted a joint application for a USDOT RAISE Grant, which was awarded funding in August 2022. The grant covered a significant portion of both the MnDOT TH 197 corridor from Gillett Drive NW to Hannah Avenue NW along with the city streets of Middle School Drive NW and Hannah Avenue NW from Paul Bunyan Drive (TH 197) to 23rd Street NW.

Back in January 2025, the final landscaping design for the MnDOT TH 197 corridor was finalized and city staff have been working with MnDOT to get those design selections incorporated into their final design package which is nearing completion. In May, City Council awarded the construction contract to Reiersen Construction for the city streets of Middle School Drive NW & Hannah Avenue NW. Attached is an exhibit displaying the city's project phased over 2 construction seasons stemming from delays to the federal funding "pause" that occurred the beginning of 2025. We are currently on schedule with construction which is planned to conclude in early October this year until we begin again in 2026.

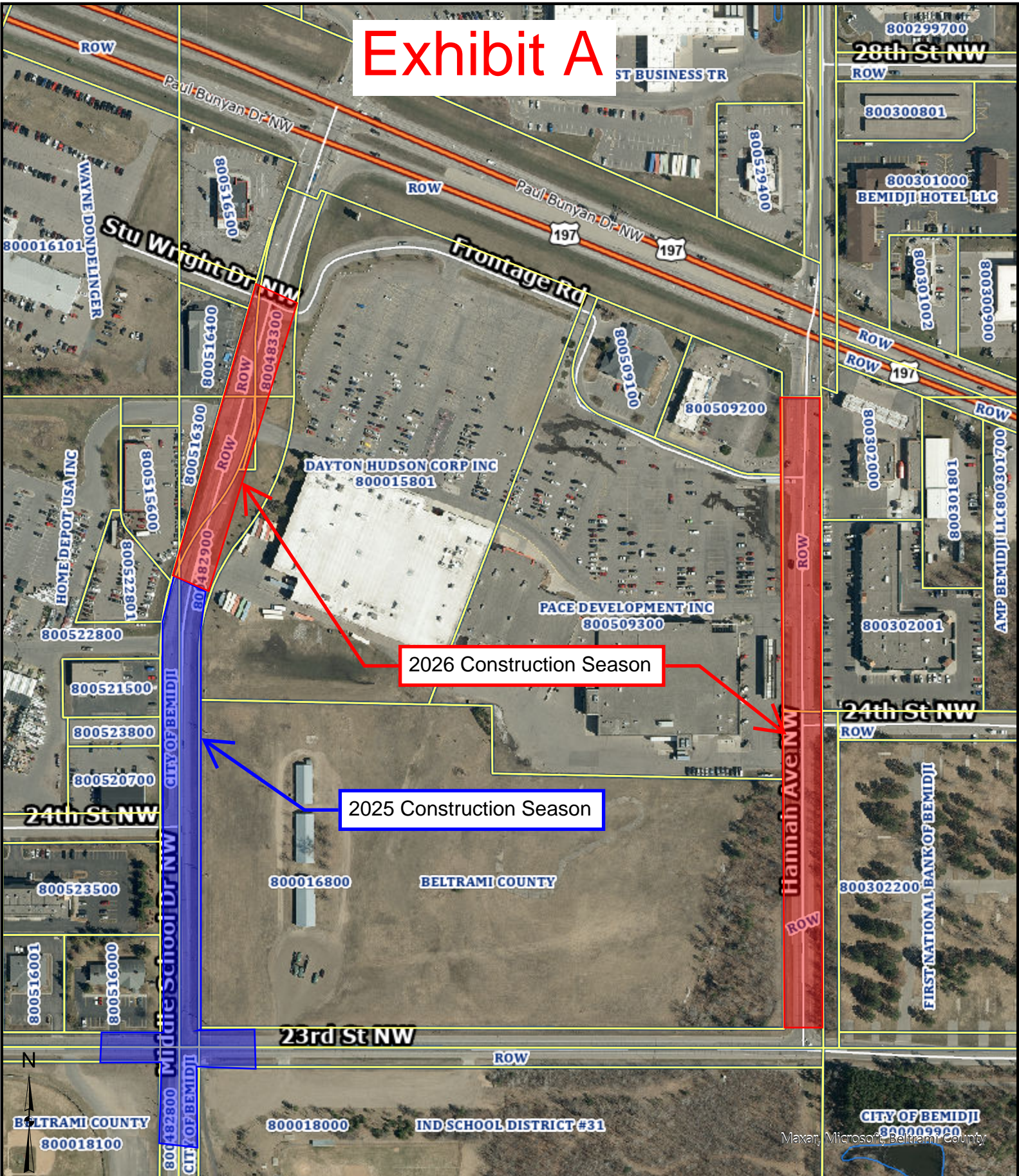
Council selected to go with a standard light pole (cobra style) design for the TH 197 corridor. The plan was to pursue having banner brackets and a GFCI outlet on the standard poles. After further discussions, MnDOT is offering to cover "knockdowns" of the proposed light poles for the TH 197 project, but it would be contingent upon not having the factory banner brackets or outlets. Adding the banner brackets and/or outlets are classified as a non-typical design by MnDOT and would require the city to take on that responsibility if we would like them included into the project. Staff would like feedback from Council on this specific item so MnDOT can incorporate our preference into their final design.

At tonight's meeting, Matt Upgren with MnDOT and his team will be providing council with an update on the TH 197 design schedule and discuss some plans for future project updates as construction is getting closer for the TH 197 corridor.

Recommendation:

No formal action required at tonight's meeting.

Exhibit A



These data are provided on an "AS-IS" basis, without warranty of any type, expressed or implied, including but not limited to any warranty as to their performance, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose.

Hannah & Middle School - Overview Map

1:4,514

Date: 4/9/2025

This map is not a substitute for accurate field surveys or for locating actual property lines and any adjacent features.

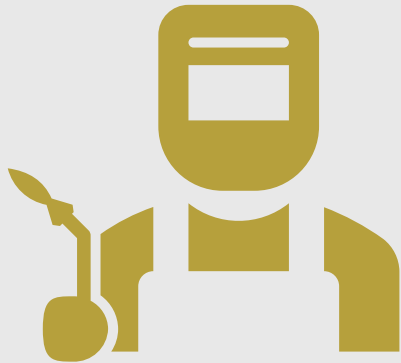




Hwy 197 Reconstruct Project Update

Matt Upgren | Project Manager

Where do we sit today



Finalizing construction plans



Another round of in-person business owner meetings



Public open house on Thursday, October 23rd



RAISE Grant funding was placed on hold during the winter of 2024–2025



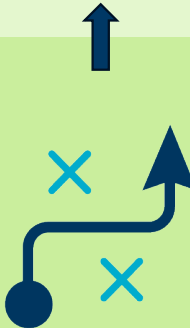
Component 1 released
(City of Bemidji portion)



Funding & Schedule



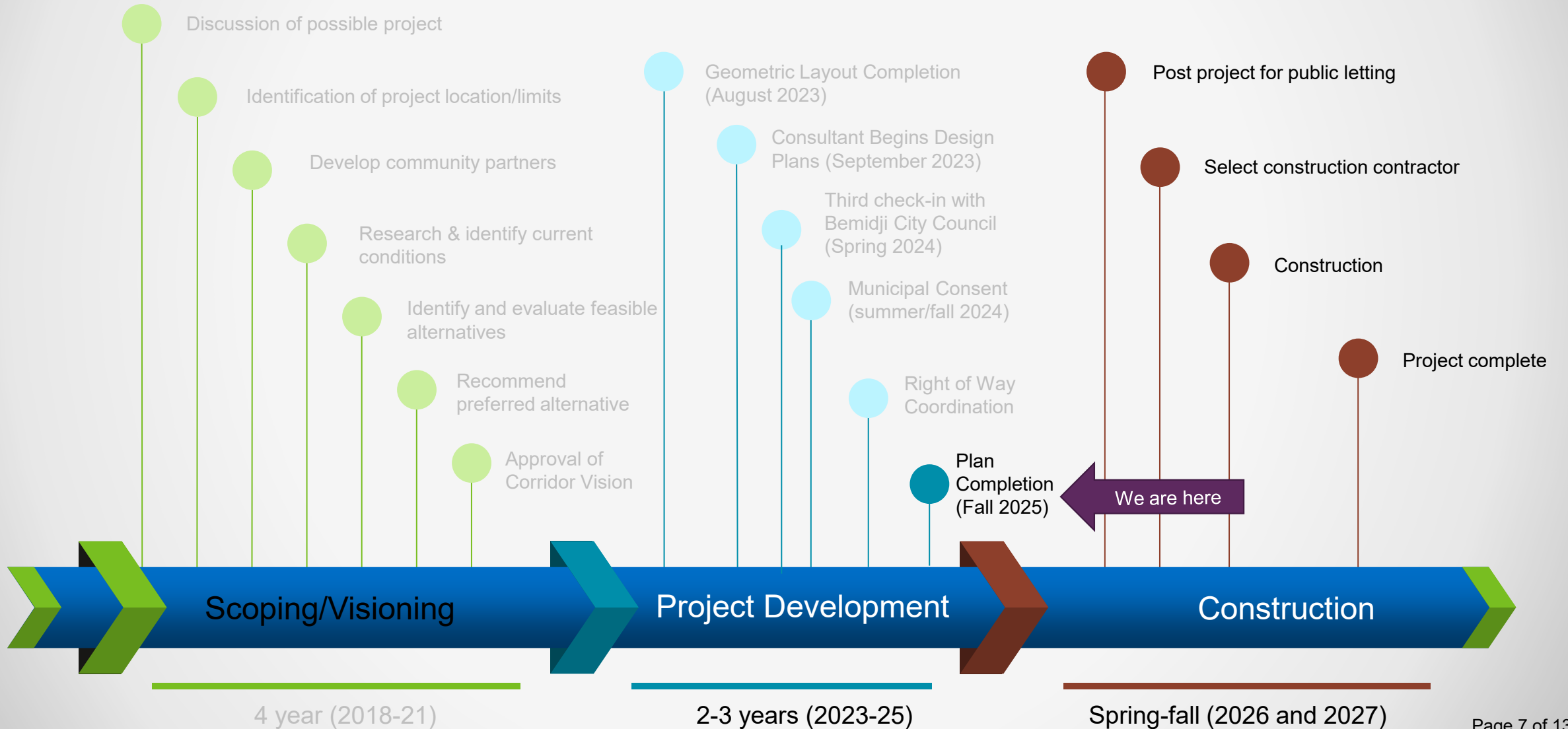
Component 2 expected to be released in December 2025
(MnDOT portion)



To maximize a joint effort in the 2026 construction season, we will begin on the west end



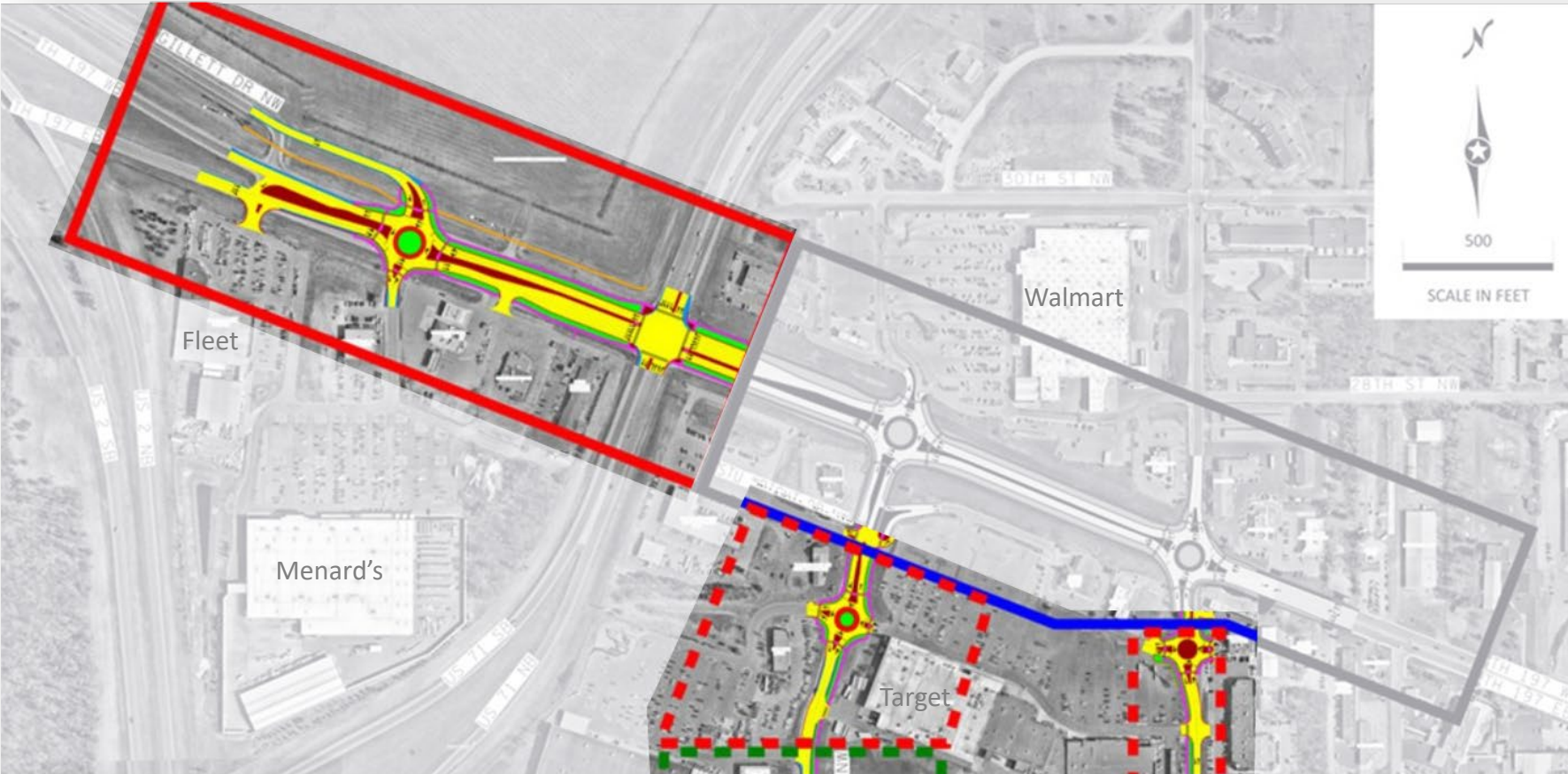
Next Steps and Coming Schedule



2026 Construction Season

2026

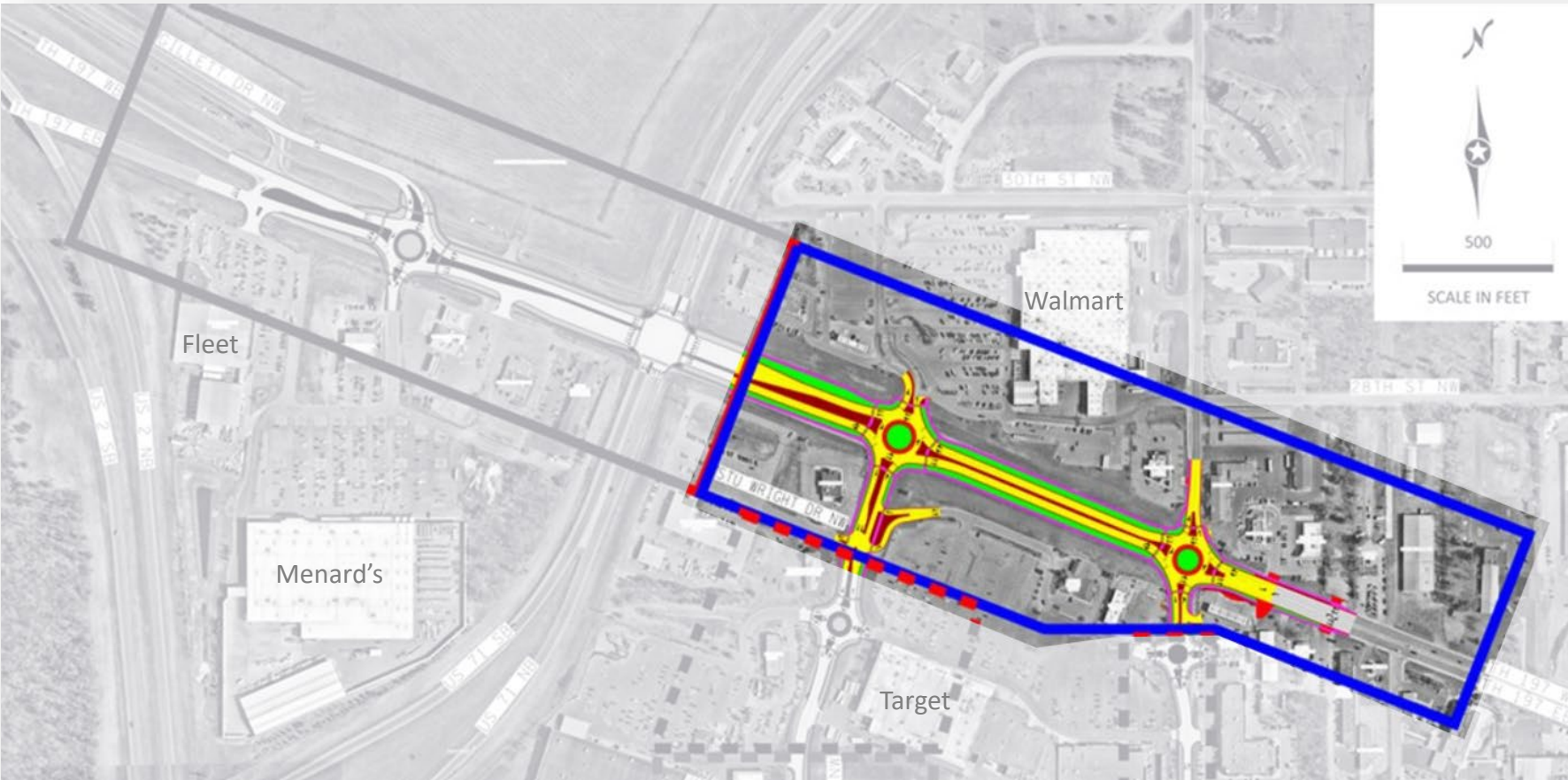
- May – October
- Work Zone
 - Temp widening
 - Minor, short-term closures



2027 Construction Season

2027

- May – October
- Work Zone
 - Temp widening
 - Detour



Construction Approach

- Introduction to Construction Staff
- Construction update
- How will the field staff keep business owners and public up to speed on the day-to-day staging changes?
 - Pre-construction Open House
 - Business and Emergency Services Coordination

Communication Approach

- Before Construction
 - Business one-on-one meetings (fall)
 - Mailer (fall, spring)
 - Open House (fall, spring)
 - Media, display boards, handouts
- During construction
 - Business and Emergency Services Liaison
 - Weekly public meeting
 - Weekly update (email, website, social media, traditional media)
 - Phone hotline

Helping businesses thrive during construction

- Small Business Development Center
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community examples
 - Lane Changers (Hackensack)
 - Cross-promotion (Baudette)
 - Construction Crawl (Grand Ave – St. Paul)

Thank You!

Matt Upgren

Matthew.Upgren@state.mn.us

218-407-0703