

Downtown Highway 41 Project FAQ



CHASKA
Downtown
Highway 41
Project

Why are you reducing thru lanes on Highway 41?

The current four-lane divided roadway design does not have dedicated left and right turn lanes. This causes disruptions to the flow of traffic, which pose safety concerns. The new roadway design will reduce the amount of thru lanes from four to two in order to add dedicated turn lanes, ultimately improving traffic efficiency and safety.

Additionally, the current roadway design leaves minimal space for sidewalks due to the parking located on the northbound lanes. Room for non-motorized travel is vital to a historic downtown. Without it, the downtown environment is not viewed as inviting to those that are not in a vehicle. Furthermore, this lane reduction will improve pedestrian safety by decreasing the number of traffic lanes one must cross when using the crosswalk.

Will the lane reduction cause back-ups?

Despite reducing the amount of thru lanes from four to two, this design will improve traffic flow due to the additions of left and right turn lanes at signalized intersections. As mentioned, Highway 41 currently does not have left turn lanes at intersections within downtown. With the new design, vehicles will have their own lanes to turn in, eliminating traffic disruptions due to turning vehicles, which will allow thru lanes to operate more efficiently. Additionally, this design will add dual northbound left turn lanes at the Highway 41/Chaska Boulevard intersection, increasing the roadway's current capacity.

What will be done with the space gained from the lane reduction?

The extra space obtained from the lane reduction will be used to create wider sidewalks and add streetscaping features and beautification areas, such as street lights, seating, and landscaping. These additions will improve the experience for people navigating downtown outside of their cars and encourage travelers to stop in downtown.

Why is a pedestrian tunnel one of the proposed improvements?

The proposed pedestrian tunnel will be located under Highway 41 between 5th Street and Chaska Boulevard. The pedestrian tunnel will improve safety and provide a valuable connection for downtown visitors and residents. Additionally, the pedestrian tunnel is key to the Circle the Brick trail connection, which is anticipated to be complete in 2024.

Why is parking being removed from Highway 41?

With the new roadway design, parking must be removed in order to achieve the project's safety objectives. If parking was kept, vehicles attempting to park would slow down and even block thru traffic on Highway 41.

Will more parking be added?

To accommodate the loss of on-street parking in downtown, the project will construct two off-street public parking lots, one to the north of City Square Park and one to the south. Approximately 40 parking spots will be removed from Highway 41, but the parking lots will add approximately 45 parking spots. These new parking lots will also include enhanced pedestrian connections to Highway 41 for easy access to the businesses and shops.

What is a paseo, and why is it being considered?

Alleys in the commercial core, between Pine and Walnut Streets, are being considered as part of the pedestrian walkway system in downtown. These are referred to as a "Paseo". Paseos provide an large area where pedestrians can safely and conveniently walk from parking areas to businesses and shops, but also large enough for cars and services vehicles to access the parking lots and buildings. These areas will reflect the downtown character and include special pavement and lighting. The Downtown Highway 41 Project will develop paseo's east of Highway 41 between 2nd and 3rd Streets and 4th and 5th Streets.



Visit the project website and sign up for updates!
DowntownHwy41.com



Nicole Krause
612-269-4637
DowntownHwy41@bolton-menk.com

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What are the benefits of this project?

- Improved traffic safety and efficiency
- Calm traffic with reducing speeds by introducing medians and streetscaping items in advance of downtown.
- Safer, more welcoming environment for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Improved accessibility for all people
- Revitalization of downtown that will benefit existing businesses and attract new businesses
- Safer, more reliable routes for all modes of transportation

When will these improvements be built?

From Summer-Fall 2022, crews will build Chaska Blvd (Highway 41 to Yellow Brick Road) and the parking lots between 2nd/3rd St and 4th/5th Street. From the spring-fall 2023, crews will build Highway 41 from the MN River bridge to Walnut Street, as well as the trail and tunnel (between 5th Street and Chaska Blvd). This construction plan is tentative and subject to change.



For more information, check out the project summary sheet on the website!

DowntownHwy41.com

