

# Downtown Highway 41 Project Overview



**CHASKA**  
Downtown  
Highway 41  
Project

## What's the Downtown Highway 41 Project?

In 2017, Carver County, MnDOT and the City of Chaska completed a study that identified key transportation system improvements to address existing issues and prepare the City of Chaska for future growth. One of the projects identified by this plan was the Downtown Highway 41 Project. The Downtown Highway 41 Project vision is to reconstruct Highway 41 as a two-lane road with turn lanes to better balance roadway needs with the pedestrian space. Additionally, streetscaping, off-street public parking, pedestrian/bicyclist connections and gathering space improvements will create a more comfortable, safe and inviting environment for all users. The project also includes improvements to Chaska Blvd to improve safety and flow for all transportation modes.

## Project Benefits



Improved traffic safety and efficiency



Calm traffic by introducing medians and streetscaping elements



Safer, more welcoming environment for pedestrians and bicyclists



Improved accessibility for all people



Safer, more reliable routes for all modes of transportation



Revitalization of downtown that will benefit existing businesses and attract new businesses

## Key Improvements

### Highway 41 (Chestnut Street)

- + Reconstruct Highway 41 as a two-lane divided roadway with turn lanes, upgraded utilities and no parking
- + Add pedestrian tunnel on former railroad corridor under Highway 41 and enhanced crossing at Walnut Street
- + Add streetscaping and wayfinding, off-street public parking, pedestrian/bicyclist connections and improved gathering spaces
- + Add design enhancements to the Minnesota River Bridge area to encourage traffic calming

### Highway 61 (Chaska Boulevard)

- + Reconstruct Chaska Blvd as a four-lane divided roadway with turn lanes and upgrade utilities
- + Add streetscaping and wayfinding, pedestrian/bicyclist connections and improved gathering spaces



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# Downtown Highway 41 Project

## What is being built?



**CHASKA**  
Downtown  
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### Improved traffic flow with fewer backups

- Dedicated turn lanes at all public streets
- New signals and improved timing
- Right-in/right-out access at 1st St, 3rd St and 5th St



- Full access intersections at:
- Hwy 41/2nd
  - Hwy 41/4th St
  - Hwy 41/Walnut St
  - Hwy 61/Hwy 41
  - Hwy 61/N Walnut St
  - Hwy 61/Yellow Brick Rd

### Trail with tunnel

Tunnel under Hwy 41 separates pedestrian/bicycle from vehicle traffic. Trail will provide link for future regional trail.



### Two-lane highway

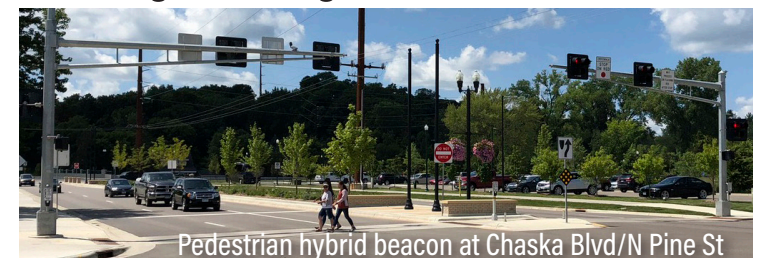
Dedicated thru-lane in each direction will keep vehicles moving.

### New public parking lots and pedestrian connections

Three parking lots will replace on-street parking along Hwy 41. Walkways will connect the lots to sidewalks.

### Improved Pedestrian Crossing

The addition of a pedestrian hybrid beacon, like that on Chaska Blvd/N Pine St, will increase pedestrian visibility at existing crossing.



### Better sidewalks

- Wider and ADA accessible sidewalks provide a safer and more welcoming environment for all.
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## Highway 41 Improvements



Reconstruct Highway 41 as a two-lane divided with turn lanes and upgrade utilities



Add pedestrian tunnel under Highway 41 and enhanced crossing at Walnut Street



Add streetscaping and wayfinding, off-street public parking, pedestrian/ bicyclist connections and improved gathering space



Add design enhancements to the Minnesota River Bridge area to encourage traffic calming



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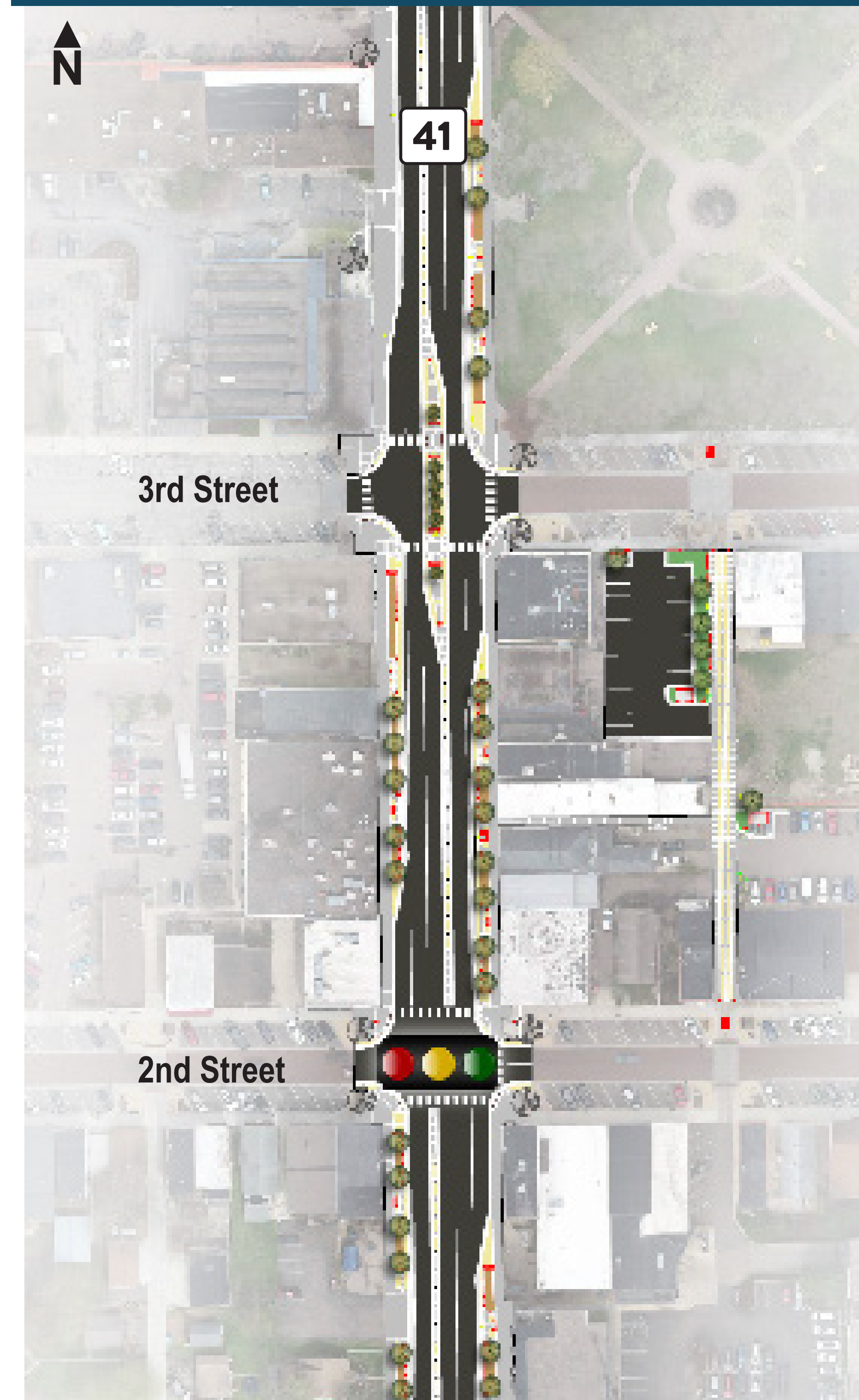
# Downtown Highway 41 Project Four to Two Lane Conversion

## Before



- ➔ Two lanes in each direction
- ➔ No dedicated left and right turn lanes
- ➔ Disruptions to the flow of traffic, which pose safety concerns

## After



- ➔ One lane in each direction
- ➔ Dedicated turn lanes
- ➔ Improved traffic flow due to the additions of left and right turn lanes at signalized intersections

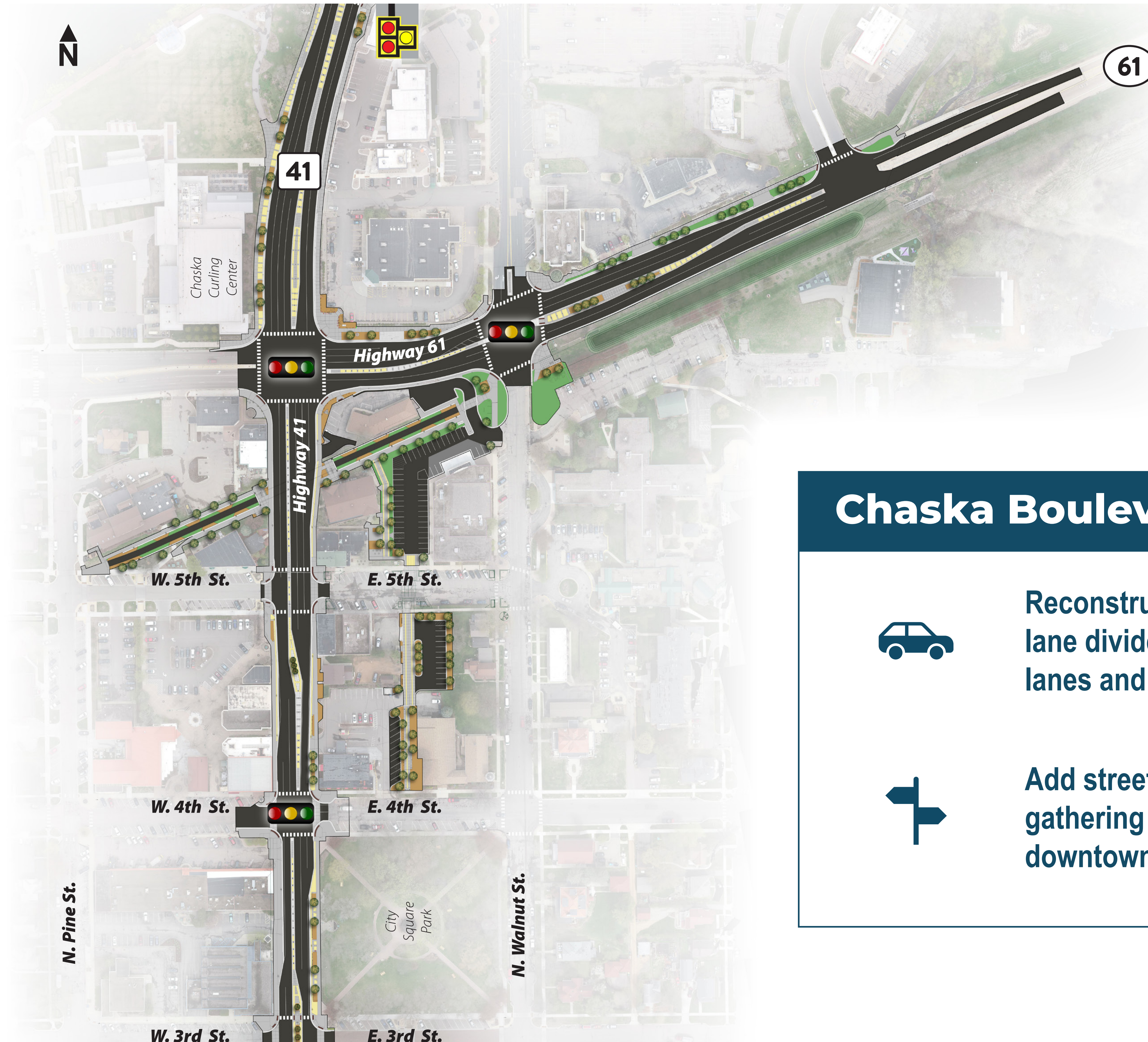


# Downtown Highway 41 Project

## What is being built?



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Downtown  
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### Chaska Boulevard Improvements



Reconstruct Chaska Blvd as a four-lane divided roadway with turn lanes and upgrade utilities



Add streetscaping and improved gathering spaces in the downtown area



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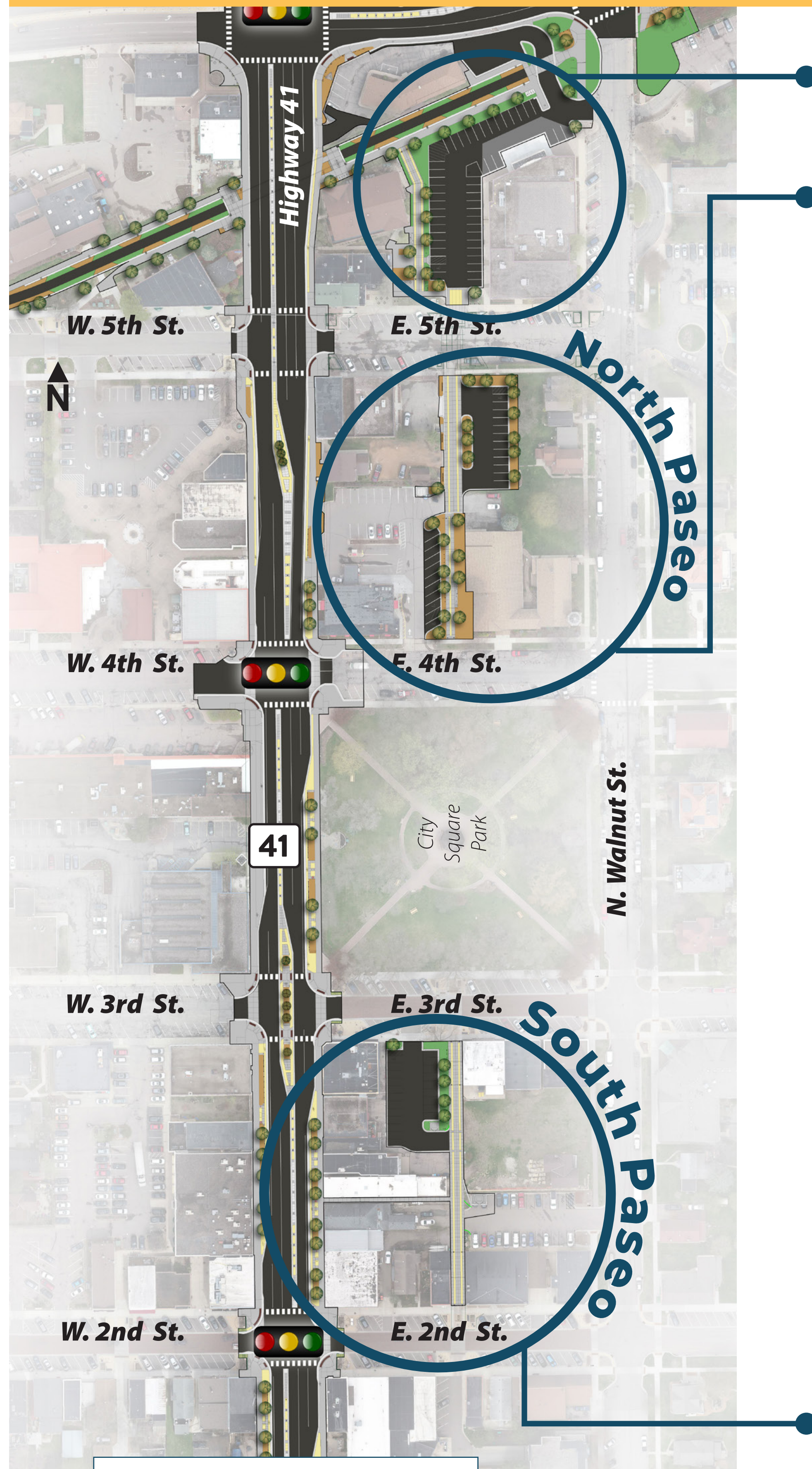
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# Downtown Highway 41 Project Streetscape Design



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Downtown  
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## New city parking and pedestrian walkway

### North Paseo and Parking



### What is a Paseo?

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 a large area where pedestrians can safely and conveniently walk from parking areas to businesses and shops, but also large enough for cars and service 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 paseos east of Highway 41 between 2nd and 3rd Streets, and 4th and 5th Streets.



### South Paseo and Parking



# Downtown Highway 41 Project Streetscape Design



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Downtown  
Highway 41  
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Wayfinding, Chaska banners, and historical brick elements



Lighting and decorative pillars

**Decorative elements will aid in the revitalization of downtown by improving the pedestrian experience when walking or biking along Highway 41.**

Natural elements such as plants and trees



Decorative medians with space for pedestrians



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# Downtown Highway 41 Project Construction



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## Stage 1 Construction

*Sept.-Nov. 2022*

-  **Closed Sep.-Nov.**
-  **Open to traffic but under construction**
-  **Parking Lot Work**  
Closed during work

## Stage 2 Construction

*April-October 2023*

-  **41/61 intersection and river bridge closed April-June**
-  **Hwy 41 from 5th Street to 1st Street closed April-Nov.**



# Downtown Highway 41 Project Construction



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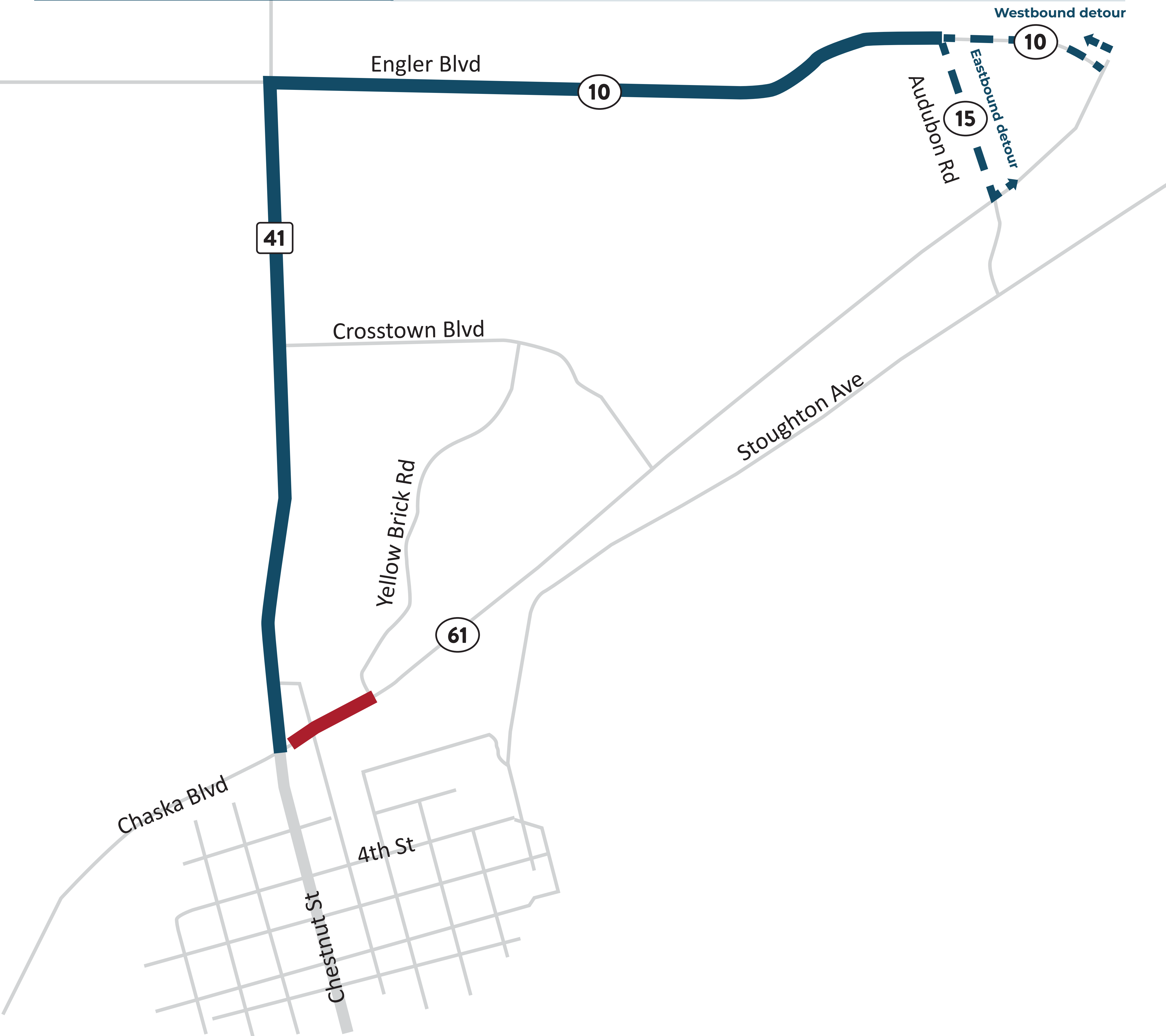
## Stage 1 Detour Route Sept. - Nov. 2022



Closure Area



Regional Detour



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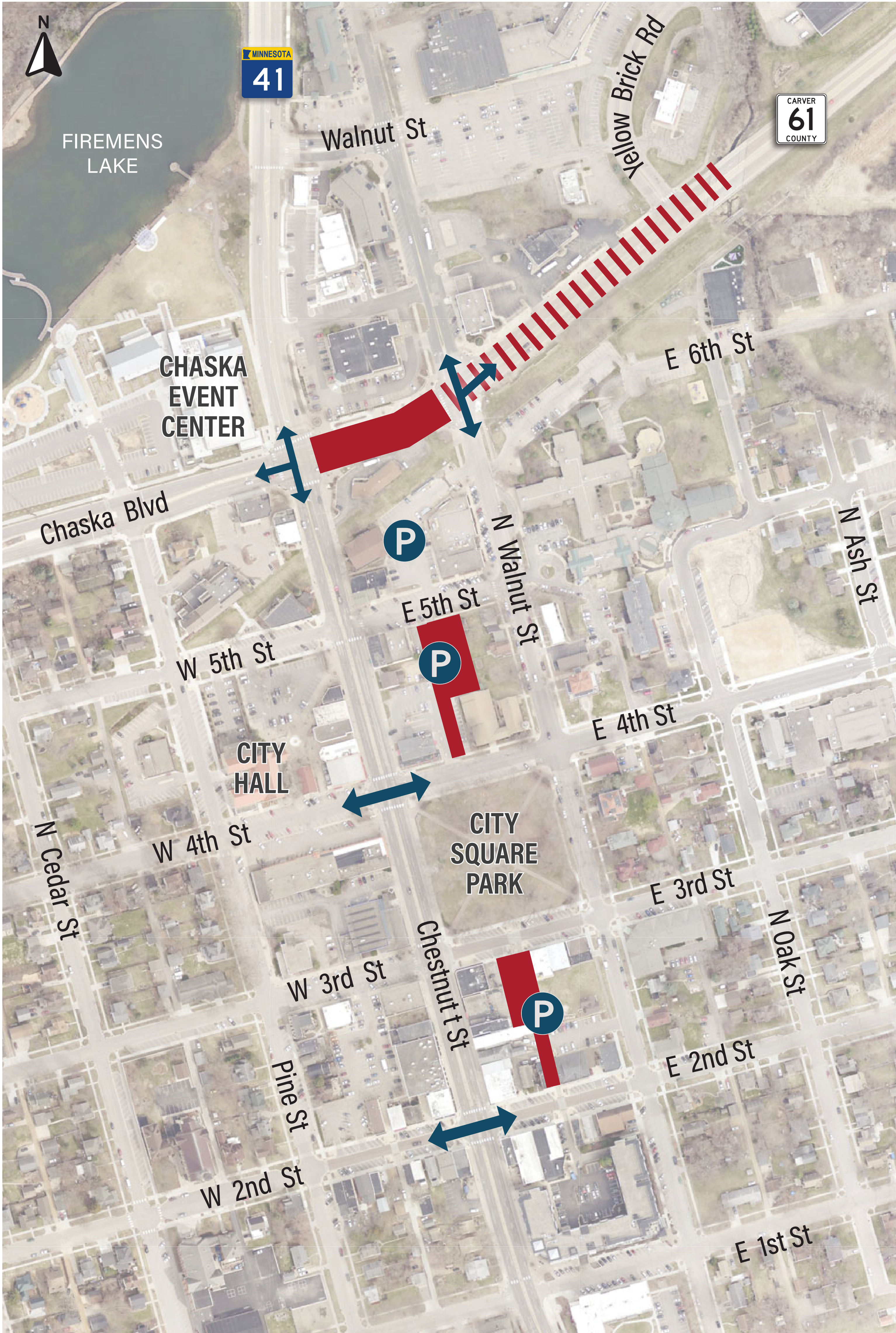
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# Downtown Highway 41 Project Construction




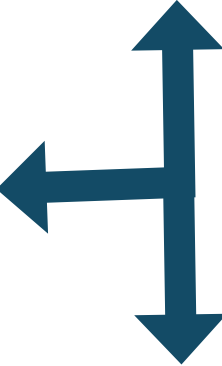



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## Stage 1 Local Access

Sept.-Oct. 2022

-  **Closed to Traffic**  
Please note that business access will be maintained to businesses within the closure area.
-  **Open to Traffic**
-  **Parking Lot Work**  
Closed to traffic
-  **41/61 intersection**  
Partially Open
-  **Key Local Vehicle and Pedestrian Crossings**



# Downtown Highway 41 Project Construction



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## Stage 2 Detour Routes April - Oct. 2023



**Highway 41/Highway  
61 Intersection/River  
Bridge Closure**  
*Closed April-June*



**Highway 41  
Closure Area**  
*Closed April-October*



**Regional Detours**



**Key Connections**



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# CHASKA

## Downtown Highway 41 Project





# Downtown Highway 41 Project Construction Communication



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STAY INFORMED



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## Construction Communication Methods

**Website  
Updates**

**Facebook  
Posts**

**Maps and  
Videos**

**Hotline and  
Email**

**Email  
Updates**

**Notices and  
Newsletters**



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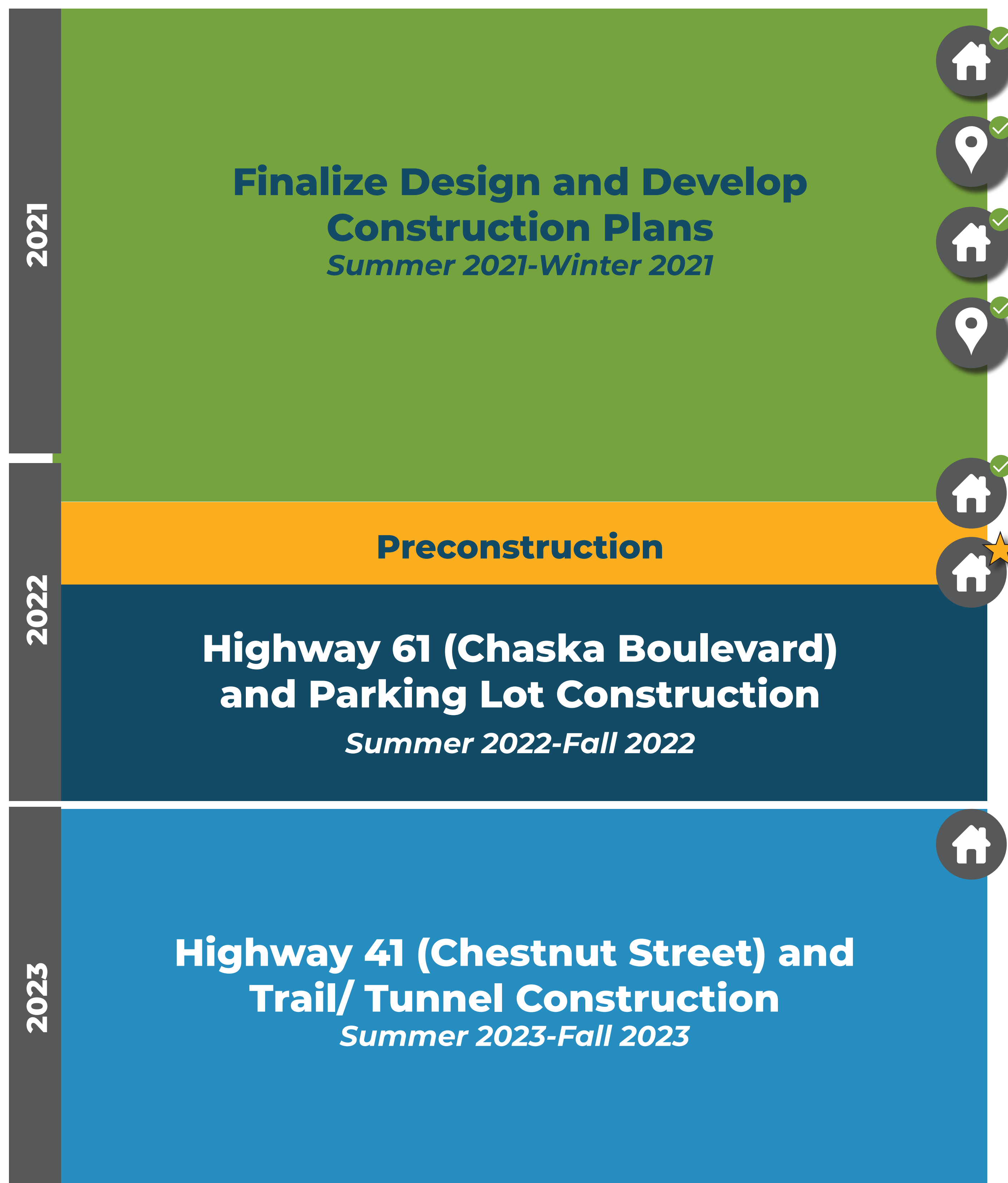
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# Downtown Highway 41 Project Project Schedule



**CHASKA**  
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**Open House**  
Reintroduce Project  
May 6, 2021

**Pop-Up**  
River City Days  
July 23-24, 2021

**Open House**  
Taste of Chaska  
August 18, 2021

**Pop-Up**  
Fire and Ice Festival  
October 16, 2021

**Open House**  
Final Plans & Construction Staging  
February 24, 4:30 p.m.

**Open House**  
Prepare for Construction  
August 22, 2022, 5 p.m.

**Open House**  
Prepare for Construction



Please note the schedule is subject to change!



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