



# **Greater Minnesota Transportation Alternatives Solicitation**

**2023/24 Full Application**

**Funding in year 2028**

**Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Trail**

**Submitted by the St. Louis County Public Works Department**

**January 12, 2024**

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**Notes:** The solicitation for Transportation Alternatives funding for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties) is conducted by the Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board. For more information about the metro area solicitation, visit the [Met Council website](#).

# Overview

For the 2023/24 application cycle, MnDOT is conducting a solicitation for Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects. Important eligibility requirements to be aware of are noted below.

- The TA funding available through this solicitation is for project construction in fiscal year 2028. TA funding requires a 20 percent local match. Only projects located outside of the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible for TA funding. Maximum funding awards are set by each Area Transportation Partnership.

See the TA Solicitation Guidebook for more information about the program and additional eligibility requirements.

## 2023/24 Solicitation Timeline

- **Monday October 2, 2023** – Announce TA solicitation. Open letter of intent period.
- **Friday, November 3rd, 2023** – Deadline for applicants to submit letters of intent.
- **Monday, November 20th, 2023** – Deadline for RDO/MPO/district review of letters of intent. Recommendation to proceed forward with full application given to applicants.
- **Friday, November 24th, 2023** – Official start of full application period.
- **Friday, January 12th, 2024**– Deadline for applicants to submit full applications.
- **Friday, April 12th, 2024** – Deadline for ATPs to select TA projects.

## Related Documents

- **TA Solicitation Guidebook** – includes information related to the overall solicitation process and eligibility requirements for TA funding.

# Transportation Alternatives Full Application

## General Information

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### Notes:

- If the overall project contains ineligible elements, please mention the entire project in the brief project description but concentrate the application and budget on the elements that are eligible for the funding you are seeking.
- Sponsoring Agencies, if sponsoring for another project applicant, are advised to have dialog with the project applicant to ascertain the level of commitment by the applicant to follow through on delivery of the project, including the potential use of eminent domain.

## Project Information

**Name of project:** Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Trail

**Project is located in which county(ies):** St. Louis County

**Brief project description:** Construct a separated paved trail along the east side of Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) beginning at Technology Dr and ending at a point 0.30 mile north of Martin Rd (CSAH 9) for a total length of 3.50 miles.

**Project year:** 2028

**Project applicant:** St. Louis County Public Works Department

## Contact Information

**Contact person (from applicant agency/organization):** Victor Lund

**Mailing address:** 4787 Midway Rd

**City:** Duluth **State:** MN **Zip:** 55811

**Phone:** 218-625-3873 **Fax:** N/A **Email:** lundv@stlouiscountymn.gov

**Sponsoring agency (if different than applicant):** N/A

**Contact person (from sponsoring agency, if different than applicant):** N/A



## Project Budget

### Notes:

- Please identify what costs will be incurred to carry out the proposed project, using the following budget categories as a guideline. Where appropriate, break down your costs by units purchased. For example: number of acres, cubic yards of fill, etc. Attach additional sheets if necessary.
- Cost estimates are to be submitted in current year dollars<sup>1</sup>.

**Table A – Eligible Items**

Eligible work/construction item	Estimated quantity	Unit cost	Total cost
MOBILIZATION	1 LUMP SUM	\$100,000	\$100,000.00
TRAFFIC CONTROL	1 LUMP SUM	\$30,000	\$30,000.00
COMMON EXCAVATION	15,450 CU YD	\$20.00	\$309,000.00
GEOTEXTILE FABRIC	15,450 SQ YD	\$5.00	\$77,250.00
SELECT GRANULAR EMBANKMENT MOD 7% (CV)	5,150 CU YD	\$30.00	\$154,500.00
COMMON EMBANKMENT (CV)	6,440 CU YD	\$15.00	\$96,600.00
AGGREGATE BASE (CV) CLASS 5	5,150 CU YD	\$50.00	\$257,500.00
MILL BITUMINOUS SURFACE (2.5")	4,220 SQ YD	\$5.00	\$21,100.00
FULL DEPTH RECLAMATION	4,220 SQ YD	\$3.00	\$12,660.00
TYPE SP 12.5 WEARING COURSE MIX (2,B)	2,670 TON	\$120.00	\$320,400.00
TYPE SP 12.5 WEARING COURSE MIX (4,C)	1,220 TON	\$100.00	\$122,000.00
TRAIL BOARDWALK (10 FT)	400 LIN FT	\$1,600.00	\$640,000.00
24" RC PIPE CULVERT	120 LIN FT	\$150.00	\$18,000.00
24" RC PIPE APRON	8 EACH	\$2,000.00	\$16,000.00
6" CONCRETE WALK	2,700 SQ FT	\$20.00	\$54,000.00
SILT FENCE, TYPE MS	27,800 LIN FT	\$5.00	\$139,000.00
RAPID STABILIZATION METHOD 3	40 M GALLON	\$1,400.00	\$56,000.00
MISC ITEMS + CONTINGENCY (25%)			\$606,000.00
TOTAL			\$3,030,010.00

<sup>1</sup> Grant recipients will need to provide a match based on the year of construction estimate developed when the grant is awarded.

**Table B – Ineligible Items<sup>2</sup>**

Ineligible work/construction item	Estimated quantity	Unit cost	Total cost
RIGHT-OF-WAY	3 ACRES (ESTIMATED)	\$15,000	\$45,000
DESIGN ENGINEERING	1 LUMP SUM	\$100,000	\$100,000
ADMINISTRATION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING	1 LUMP SUM	\$250,000	\$250,000
TOTAL			\$395,000

**Total Project Budget**

1. Total cost of proposed project (Total Table A + Total Table B): \$3,425,010
2. Items not eligible for TA funding (Total Table B): \$395,000
3. Total eligible costs – recommended range \$100,000 to \$1 million<sup>3</sup> (Total Table A): \$3,030,010
4. Applicant's contribution toward the eligible alternative project costs – minimum 20% match required:  
\$2,430,010
5. Total amount requested in transportation alternatives funds (#3 minus #4): \$600,000

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<sup>2</sup> Includes Right of Way or Land Acquisition (e.g. appraisal fees, legal fees), Administrative Costs (e.g. preliminary and construction engineering and contingencies)

<sup>3</sup> See the [ATP Project Evaluation section](#) of this document for any additional requirements related to project costs.

## ATP Project Evaluation

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Notes: These questions were developed by the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership.

### Project Description

1. Identify the Transportation Alternatives category/categories in which your project fits:
  - ☒ Active Transportation: Develops new facilities, enhances existing facilities, or removes barriers for people walking, bicycling, or using other non-motorized modes of transportation to access daily needs.
  - ☐ Wayside Rests: Constructs safety rest areas and scenic overlooks for motorists.
  - ☐ Community Improvement: Enhances community improvement by controlling outdoor advertising, preserving historic transportation facilities, managing vegetation in transportation rights-of-way, and/or conducting archeological activities related to impacts of a transportation project.
  - ☐ Environmental Mitigation: Mitigates environmental harm related to impacts of transportation systems.
  - ☐ Safe Routes to School: Furthers Safe Routes to School programs through infrastructure- and non-infrastructure-related improvements.
  - ☐ Boulevard Development: Develops boulevards and other roadways (largely in right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways) specifically for enhanced use by people walking, bicycling, or using transit. (See [Boulevards from Divided Highways](#) for examples.)
2. Is your project an initiative of a local Safe Routes to School program? (Note: An infrastructure project may benefit connections to a school without being an initiative of a Safe Routes to School program.)

**No**

- a. If YES, which school(s)?

**N/A**

- b. If YES, describe this school's implementation of SRTS [Education strategies](#) in the past few years.

**N/A**

- c. If YES, describe this school's implementation of SRTS [Encouragement strategies](#) in the past few years.

**N/A**

- d. If YES, describe this school's implementation of SRTS [Enforcement strategies](#) in the past few years.

**N/A**

- e. If YES, describe this school's implementation of SRTS [Engagement strategies](#) in the past few years.

**N/A**

- f. If YES, describe this school's implementation of SRTS [Engineering strategies](#) in the past few years.

**N/A**

- g. If YES, describe this school's implementation of SRTS [Equity strategies](#) in the past few years.

**N/A**

- h. If YES, describe this school's implementation of SRTS [Evaluation strategies](#) in the past few years.

**N/A**

3. Is your project an initiative of a designated Scenic Byway organization? (Note: An infrastructure project may benefit a scenic byway without being an initiative of a Scenic Byway organization.)

**No**

- a. If YES, which Scenic Byway?

**N/A**

4. Describe your project and project location in detail. If you are applying for an infrastructure project, include an easy-to-read map and captioned photos of the project location.

**St. Louis County proposes to construct a separated paved trail along the east side of Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4), beginning at Technology Dr and ending at a point 0.30 mile north of Martin Rd (CSAH 9), for a total length of 3.50 miles. Most of this trail is planned to be a paved surface trail. Some portions of the proposed trail are likely located within wetland areas. St. Louis County proposes to construct an elevated boardwalk through the wetland areas to eliminate permanent impacts. The estimated length of the elevated boardwalk is 400 ft. To ensure the ability to complete future snow removal maintenance on the trail, the elevated boardwalk will be designed to support the weight of a 1-ton pickup truck with a snowplow. Both the paved trail and elevated boardwalk will be 10-ft wide. Portions of this proposed trail will also be planned to run concurrently with the existing frontage roads on the east side of Rice Lake Rd (trail users would use the frontage road). These frontage roads are located on the north and south side of Norton Rd, and between Ridgeview Rd (CR 694) and West Calvary Rd (CR 234). The reason for using the existing frontage roads is because there is limited space available in these areas and the traffic volume on these frontage roads is low.**

The proposed Rice Lake Rd trail, which is one of four components of the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project (<https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>), is envisioned to provide a multi-modal choice to access employment and housing and improve quality of life in the Rice Lake community as well as provide connectivity to the City of Duluth. The other components to the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project include (1) reconstruction of Rice Lake Rd, Martin Rd and West Calvary Rd as an urban corridor with roundabouts and other intersection improvements, (2) construction of a new city street to connect West Calvary Rd and Martin Rd to support future development, and (3) construction of a new roadway to access tax forfeit lands to support the County's efforts in future marketing of these lands for additional residential and commercial development. St. Louis County is submitting a RAISE Grant funding application in February 2024 for the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project.

5. Describe demographic conditions for the area where your project is located.

The proposed trail is 3.50 miles in length. The trail would be located both in the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake. Within Duluth, the trail length is 2.16 miles. Within Rice Lake, the trail length is 1.34 miles. The population of the City of Rice Lake is 4,112 and the population of the City of Duluth is 86,697 (2020 Census). The trail is located within Census Tracts 4 and 104. Census Tract 4 is identified as an Area of Persistent Poverty by FHWA (FHWA Grant Project Verification Tool located at <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-app-hdc>). Census Tract 4 has a population of 5,622 and Census Tract 104 has a population of 3,501. Within these census tracts, the percentage of people that choose to walk or bike to work is estimated at 7% for Census Tract 4 and 4% for Census Tract 104.

6. Estimate the average number of people expected to utilize your project on a daily basis.

There are a few factors to consider when estimating the number of users of the proposed Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) trail. First, the proposed trail will connect into an existing contiguous sidewalk/path network at Technology Dr that is nearly 400 miles in length. Second, there is private investment interest in developing housing on the Rice Lake Rd corridor near the intersection with Martin Rd (CSAH 9). Third, the City of Rice Lake's comprehensive plan identifies the Rice Lake Rd corridor as its focus of commercial and mixed-use development. And fourth, there is an existing charter school located along Rice Lake Rd at Technology Dr (Duluth Edison and Northstar Academy). At the present, the estimated number of trail users is likely to be less than 50 people per day. However, when the housing and job opportunities become developed along the corridor, it is estimated the number of trail users to be greater than 50 people per day.

7. Describe and provide evidence about how your project will benefit the population and area it will serve.

St. Louis County has been working with the City of Rice Lake for several years to develop the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project. This project will create a "downtown" for Rice Lake. Rice Lake was a township that was incorporated into a city in 2015 and does not have a "gateway" or "downtown" area. The Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project will create a multi-modal transportation system that connects to and serves this new "downtown" area. A key component of the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project is the trail along the east side of Rice Lake Rd (proposed by this funding application). As new development is completed, resulting in jobs and housing, this trail will provide an alternative choice for transportation as a pedestrian, bicyclist or other form of active transportation to access these jobs and housing.

**As noted earlier, this proposed trail will connect into an existing contiguous sidewalk/path network at Technology Dr that is nearly 400 miles in length. Additionally, the City of Duluth is working to develop the Lowell-to-Lakewalk Connector to connect Lowell Elementary (at Rice Lake Rd) to the Duluth Lakewalk. St. Louis County constructed an 8 ft path along the west side of Rice Lake Rd near Lowell Elementary and north side of West Arrowhead Rd between the two Rice Lake Rd intersections. This means that when both the Lowell-to-Lakewalk Connector and the Rice Lake Rd trail are realized, the residents in Rice Lake will have a dedicated and continuous paved path to access the Duluth Lakewalk.**

## Project Support and Partnerships

8. List public planning documents (from local, regional, statewide, and/or national levels) that have identified the need for your project and/or documented the design of your project. In your list, include the year each planning document was published.

**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan (August 2021). See**

**<https://dsmic.org/study/pedplan2021/>. Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) is identified by this plan as a “Major” pedestrian way.**

- a. For each planning document listed above, describe the public input and engagement processes (e.g., surveys, public meetings) used to identify the need and/or guide the design of your project.

**The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan was the product of a public survey and comments received at a series of six (6) public open houses (Source: Duluth-Superior MIC website).**

9. If you are applying for an infrastructure project, describe the level of engineering completed for your project to date and how you engaged the public about any final design decisions. If your project is not “ready to build”, describe how you will engage with the public while making final design decisions to maintain public support. (Note: If you are applying for a non-infrastructure project, skip this question.)

**St. Louis County has developed a preliminary layout of the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project. This layout is provided on the project website at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>. The layout is shown under the “Overview” tab towards the bottom of the page. This preliminary layout is the result of three (3) years of development between St. Louis County and the City of Rice Lake. The Rice Lake Rd trail is shown in this project layout.**

**St. Louis County has provided a rigorous public engagement process for the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project, which includes the trail along Rice Lake Rd. First, St. Louis County assembled an “Agency PMT” (project management team) in April 2023 that consisted of representation from St. Louis County (Planning, Land and Public Works departments), City of Rice Lake, City of Duluth and Canosia Township. This “Agency PMT” guided the ongoing development of the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project. Second, St. Louis County held two public meetings in September and November 2023. The September meeting provided an opportunity for the general public to provide input on the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project. An in-person survey using pom poms was provided at the September meeting for the public to prioritize improvements. The November meeting provided an opportunity for the general public to see the “final” recommended preliminary layout. Third, St. Louis County hosted a project website which included an online comment map. This comment map was posted before and after the September public meeting to provide an additional method for the general public to provide input into the preliminary layout. Fourth, St. Louis County sent postcards to all residents within the City of Rice Lake notifying them of the public meetings and online comment map. Related to the postcards, St. Louis County created table toppers that were placed at Boomtown and Kwik Trip in Rice Lake, and posted at the National Night Out event for the City of Rice Lake. Fifth, St. Louis County has met with representatives from the Duluth International Airport, Minnesota Power, Cirrus, 148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing**

and APEX about the project. And sixth, St. Louis County met with 30+ attendees of the APEX member network about the project at the Duluth International Airport in August 2023.

10. Below, list the organizations, community groups, and/or individuals from whom you received letters or resolutions of support for your project. In addition to listing the organizations below, attach letters and resolutions of support to this application.

**St. Louis County has led an intensive engagement process to obtain support for the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project, which includes the Rice Lake Rd trail (proposed by this funding application). To date, St. Louis County has received resolutions of support from the following agencies for this project. St. Louis County also expects to receive resolutions of support from the city councils of Rice Lake, Duluth and Proctor which will be considering their resolutions of support in January 2024.**

- City of Aurora
- City of Babbitt
- City of Biwabik
- City of Hermantown
- City of Hoyt Lakes
- Biwabik Township
- Canosia Township
- Duluth Township
- Gnesen Township
- North Star Township
- Solway Township
- White Township

**To date, St. Louis County has received the following letters of support for this project.**

- Duluth International Airport
- Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
- Western Lake Superior Sanitary Sewer District (WLSSD)
- US Senator Amy Klobuchar
- Senator Grant Hauschild
- Mayor Suzanne Herstad (City of Rice Lake)
- Mayor Wayne Boucher (City of Hermantown)



## Project Deliverability and Sustainability

11. Does the lead jurisdiction or agency have an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan in place as required by Title II of ADA, 28 CFR. Part 35 Sec. 35.105 and Sec. 35.150? (Note: "Lead jurisdiction or agency" refers to the project sponsor.)

**St. Louis County has an ADA Transition Plan that was approved in January 2020. The ADA Transition Plan is available for review at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-works/traffic/ada>.**

12. Describe your organization's and/or the sponsoring agency's history with delivering federally funded projects; if your agency has been awarded and turned back Transportation Alternatives funding in the past, identify the impacted project(s) and provide a summary explaining the circumstances.

**St. Louis County has a successful history of interagency partnership and delivery of federal-aid transportation infrastructure projects. From 2017 through 2021, St. Louis County delivered \$78 million in federal-aid transportation infrastructure projects. In addition to FHWA's Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, St. Louis County's professional engineering team holds a variety of experience in delivering infrastructure projects funded through the Cooperative Highway Bridge Program, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, National Highway Performance Program and Federal Lands Access Program. St. Louis County's most recent federal-aid transportation project audit, which was conducted in 2021, resulted in no findings.**

13. Identify the key steps and timeframe you will follow for guaranteed delivery of your project.

**The key steps to deliver the Rice Lake Rd trail project include the following. First, complete the design of the trail (expected to occur between 2024 and 2026). Second, complete right-of-way acquisition necessary for construction and maintenance of the trail (expected to occur in 2026 and 2027). Third, complete the environmental permitting with specific attention to permits related to wetlands (expected to occur during 2026 and 2027). Fourth, submit plan for review and approval through the Minnesota State Aid Office (expected to occur in the second half of 2027). Fifth, bid the project (expected to occur in the last quarter of 2027 or first quarter of 2028). Sixth, construct the project (expected to occur in the summer of 2028 and winter of 2028/2029). The construction will include the elevated boardwalk which is planned to be completed by winter construction to minimize/eliminate temporary wetland impacts.**

14. Are you hoping to construct your project prior to the 2026 construction year?

**No. Construction is proposed to occur in 2028.**

- a. If YES, what year are you planning to construct your project?

**N/A**

15. Identify the status of matching funds for your project or, if funds are not secured, plans to secure matching funds.

**St. Louis County plans to fund the matching funds by St. Louis County's local option transportation sales tax. This sales tax generates an annual revenue of approximately \$15 million. The estimated match that St. Louis County will provide is \$2,430,010.**

16. If you are applying for an infrastructure project, identify the status of project rights-of-way/property easements or, if project property is not secured, plans to secure project rights-of-way/property easements. (Note: If you are applying for a non-infrastructure project, skip this question.)

**St. Louis County completed a preliminary right-of-way impact analysis of the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project, which includes the Rice Lake Rd trail, in October 2023. According to this analysis, St. Louis County would need to acquire 19.7 acres of right-of-way at an estimated cost of \$750,000 for the entire Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project. Much of the Rice Lake Rd trail will be constructed within the existing right-of-way.**

**St. Louis County must complete the design of the Rice Lake Rd trail before knowing the extent of right-of-way acquisition required for the trail. The right-of-way acquisition for the trail is expected to occur during 2026 and 2027.**

**Because of the level of public engagement completed to date, St. Louis County believes there is low risk for condemnation.**

17. If you are applying for an infrastructure project, identify the environmental impacts you anticipate from your project and the required permits you anticipate the need to secure. (Note: If you are applying for a non-infrastructure project, skip this question.)

**St. Louis County completed a preliminary wetland impact analysis of the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project, which includes the Rice Lake Rd trail, in December 2023. According to this analysis, St. Louis County estimates there would be a total of 1.557 acres impacted at a cost of \$88,000 for the entire Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project. The Rice Lake Rd trail will utilize an elevated boardwalk in the delineated wetland areas. Therefore, St. Louis County believes the wetland impact of the Rice Lake Rd trail will be minimal or no impact. For reference, St. Louis County plans to construct the elevated boardwalk portion of the trail in the winter to minimize/eliminate temporary wetland impacts.**

18. Describe your plan to manage and maintain your project into the future. If you are applying for an infrastructure project, also identify how you intend for people to use your project during winter and what kind of maintenance will support this intended use.

**St. Louis County commits to maintaining the trail facility to ensure perpetual use of the trail into the future (e.g. maintenance of the pavement and elevated boardwalk). St. Louis County cannot commit to winter maintenance of the trail (clearing snow) because of limited maintenance resources. St. Louis County will need to have conversations with the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake to explore options for winter maintenance. Perhaps one or both of these cities may be able to complete winter maintenance on behalf of the County. However, both of these cities also have limited maintenance resources.**

**Winter maintenance of active transportation infrastructure is a challenge that has not yet been solved by the agencies within the Duluth metro area.**

19. If you are recommended to receive Transportation Alternatives funding for your project, would you be willing to receive less than the amount you requested while still committing to deliver your project as presented in this application?

**Yes.**

- a. If YES, identify the minimum amount of federal funding from this program you are willing to accept for your project. (Note: If less funding than the amount you requested is awarded, you would still be expected to deliver the project in full, as presented in this application.)

**St. Louis County suggests a minimum federal funding award from Transportation Alternatives of \$400,000.**

## **St. Louis County Resolution of Support (serves as the sponsorship and agreement to maintain facility)**



*Resolution  
of the  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
St. Louis County, Minnesota*

*Adopted on: December 19, 2023 Resolution No. 23-654*

*Offered by Commissioner: McDonald*

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**Authorization to Apply for the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant for the  
Rice Lake Road (CSAH 4) Trail Project– CP 0004-490685**

WHEREAS, The Transportation Alternatives Program provides federal funding grant opportunities to local communities to fund projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; and

WHEREAS, \$1.98 million in Transportation Alternatives Program funding is available for northeast Minnesota for fiscal year 2028; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Works Department proposes to submit a funding application to the Transportation Alternatives Program to obtain funding to construct a separated trail along Rice Lake Road (County State Aid Highway 4) beginning at Technology Drive and ending at a point approximately 0.3 mile north of Martin Road (County State Aid Highway 9) for a total distance of 3.5 miles in the year 2028; and

WHEREAS, The proposed trail along Rice Lake Road (County State Aid Highway 4) is one of the components of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

WHEREAS, If awarded funding, St. Louis County would be responsible for design engineering, environmental documentation and permitting, right-of-way acquisition, bidding and construction engineering and administration at the cost of St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that states agree to operate and maintain facilities constructed with federal transportation funds for the useful life of the improvement and not change the use of right of way or property ownership acquired without prior approval from the FHWA; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is the sponsoring agency for the Transportation Alternatives Program project identified as the Rice Lake Road (County State Aid Highway 4) Trail, CP 0004-490685.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Works Department to apply for \$800,000 in grant funds from the Transportation Alternatives Program to construct a trail along Rice Lake Road (County State Aid Highway 4) located in the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if the project funds are awarded, St. Louis County will provide the necessary cost contribution for this project, including any necessary cost share of potential cost overruns.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That St. Louis County agrees to assume ownership and full responsibility for operation and maintenance of the property and facilities constructed under this grant.

Commissioner McDonald moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:

Yeas – Commissioners Harala, Grimm, McDonald, Musolf, Nelson, Jugovich and Chair Boyle – 7

Nays – None

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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Office of County Auditor, ss.  
County of St. Louis

I, **NANCY NILSEN**, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D. 2023, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., 2023.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR

By:

Clerk of the County Board/Deputy Auditor

## Application Checklist

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Notes: Check the boxes in the left column to ensure all needed materials in your application are submitted.

### Application Information

- ☒ Applicant completed *General Information*.
- ☒ Applicant completed *Project Budget*.
- ☒ Applicant completed *ATP Project Evaluation*.
- ☒ Applicant attached an easy-to-read project location map as needed.
- ☒ Applicant attached captioned project location photos as needed.
- ☒ Applicant attached letters and resolutions of support.
- ☒ Applicant completed *Sponsoring Agency Resolution*. **(Same as the maintenance resolution)**
- ☒ Applicant completed *Resolution Agreeing to Maintain Facility*.
- ☒ Applicant reviewed *Application Checklist*.
- ☒ Applicant completed *Signatures*.

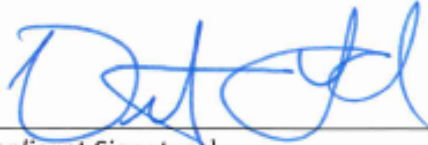
### Application Submission

- ☒ Applicant emailed Clayton Beck ([cbeck@ardc.org](mailto:cbeck@ardc.org)) the complete application package, including a Word file of this completed application, by 4:30 p.m. on January 12, 2024.

## Signatures

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Notes: Signatures are required from the following – project applicant; sponsoring agency engineer, if different than the project applicant; a representative of the local unit of government in which the project is located; and the MPO Executive Director, if the project is located in a MPO area.



(Applicant Signature)

Victor Lund, Traffic Engineer, St. Louis County

1/12/2024

(Date)

N/A

(Sponsoring Agency Engineer Signature)

(Date)



(Local Unit of Government Signature)

Victor Lund, Traffic Engineer, St. Louis County

1/12/2024

(Date)



(If in MPO area, signature of MPO Executive Director)

Ron Chicka, Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

1/12/2024

(Date)

## Appendix A: Scoring Criteria

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Notes: Each application will be scored by the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership's Transportation Alternatives Task Force on the following criteria, which were developed by the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership.

### **Project meets TA program goals [15 points possible, 30%]**

1. Project accomplishes the goals for its respective TA program category/categories. (Note: For a self-identified Safe Routes to School project, this category will consider implementation of a comprehensive program.) *See Questions 1, Questions 2-3 if applicable.* [5 points]
2. Project benefits the population and area it serves, as demonstrated by the applicant's consideration of community performance measures (i.e., community health, economic prosperity, environmental health, social justice, traffic safety) and use of sound sources to prove the proposed project will enhance these measures. *See Questions 4-7.* [10 points]

### **Project has public support [15 points possible, 30%]**

3. Project demonstrates public support by being included in planning documents produced with appropriate levels of public input and engagement. *See Question 8.* [5 points]
4. Applicant has secured public support by having final project designs approved through public processes and/or has a sound plan in place to maintain public support while final project design decisions are made. (Note: If you are applying for a non-infrastructure project, you will receive full points for this category.) *See Question 9.* [5 points]
5. Project letters of support and resolutions demonstrate a high level of community and regional support. *See Question 10.* [5 points]

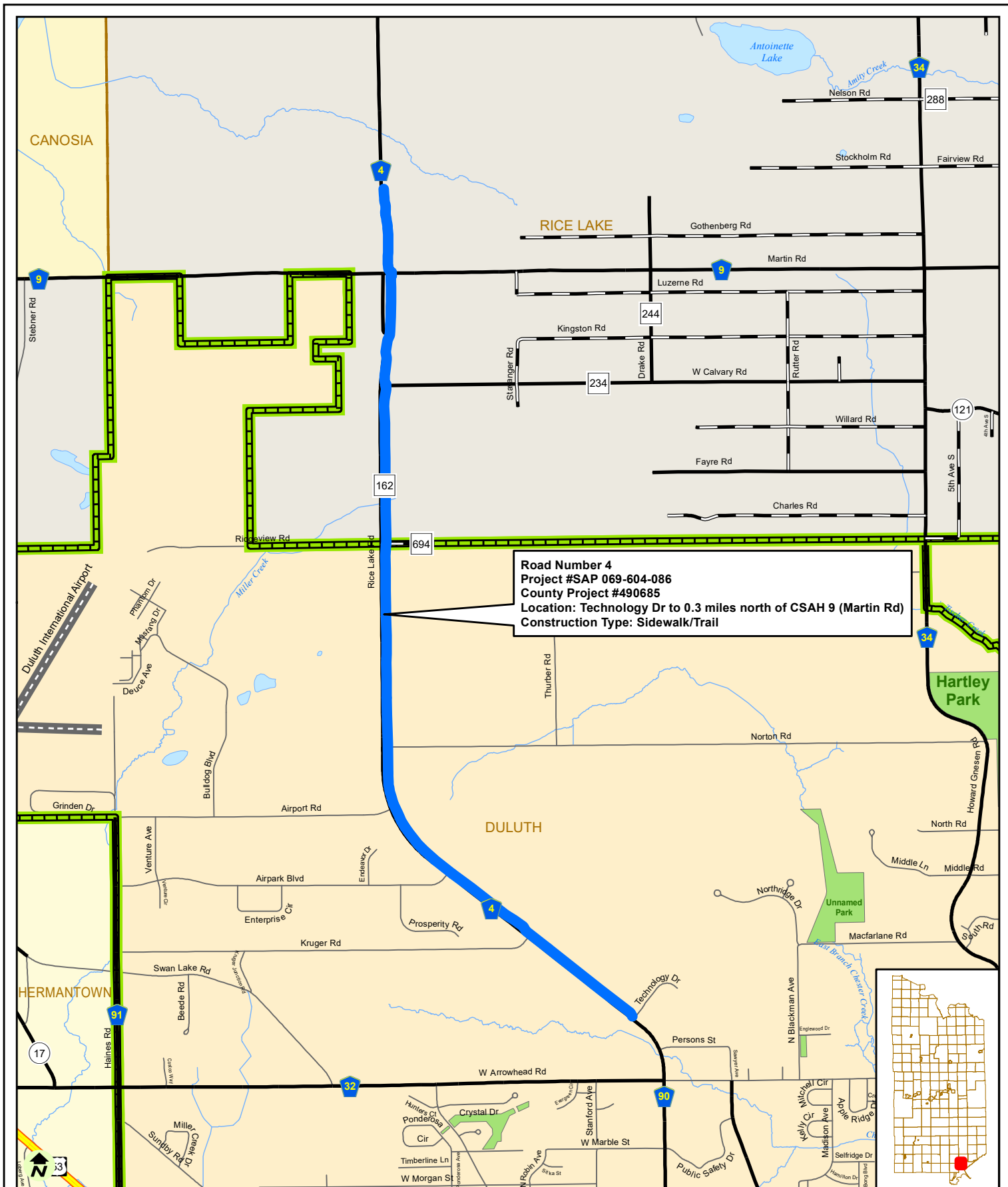
### **Project has high chance for deliverability [20 points possible, 40%]**

6. Applicant demonstrates it can effectively deliver its project on time. *See Questions 12-14 and Question 17.* [5 points]
7. Applicant has secured matching funds or has a sound plan in place to secure matching funds. *See Question 15.* [5 points]
8. Applicant has secured project rights-of-way/property easements or has a sound plan in place to secure project rights-of-way/property easements. (Note: If you are applying for a non-infrastructure project, you will receive full points for this category.) *See Question 16.* [5 points]
9. Applicant has a sound plan in place to maintain its project. *See Question 18.* [5 points]

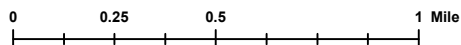




## **Project Map**



# St. Louis County 2027 Road & Bridge Construction



## Map Components

### 2027 Road & Bridge Construction

- Sidewalk/Trail
- Interstate Highway
- U.S./State Highway

- County Road - Paved
- County Road - Gravel
- Local Road/City Street
- Railroad
- Commissioner District

- Duluth Parks
- City/Town
- Lake
- River/Stream



## **Project Location Photos**

Search Google Maps

← 4317 Co Hwy 4  
Duluth, Minnesota

Google Street View

Jul 2023 See more dates

Trail Begins Here



Beginning of Trail at Technology Dr  
Looking North



Google



Search Google Maps



**4386 Rice Lake Rd**  
Duluth, Minnesota  
 Google Street View  
Jul 2023 [See more dates](#)

Elevated Boardwalk Trail



Likely a Wetland Area  
Place Elevated Boardwalk Here



Google



Search Google Maps



4537 Co Hwy 4

Duluth, Minnesota



Google Street View

Jul 2023

See more dates

Trail to Run Concurrently  
Along Frontage Rd



Frontage Roads Near Norton Rd

Norton Rd

Storage King

Google

Image capture: Jul 2023 © 2024 Google United States Terms Privacy Report a problem



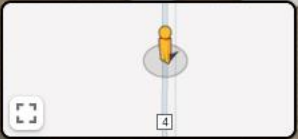
← 4643 Rice Lake Rd  
Duluth, Minnesota

Google Street View

Jul 2023 See more dates

Rice Lake Rd South of Ridgeview Rd

Paved Trail Will Utilize Old  
Rice Lake Rd Remnant





← 4814 Rice Lake Rd

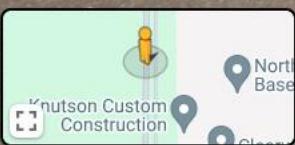
Duluth, Minnesota

Google Street View

Jul 2023 See more dates

Trail to Run Concurrently  
Along Frontage Rd

Frontage Road Between  
Ridgeview Rd and West Calvary Rd





← 4964 Co Hwy 4

Duluth, Minnesota

Google Street View

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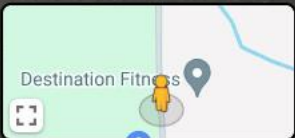
Jul 2023    See more dates

Trail Ends Here



Co Hwy 4

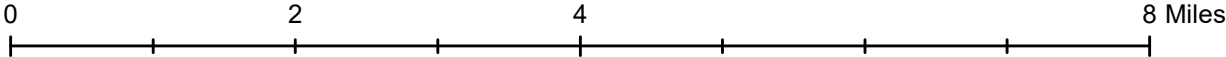
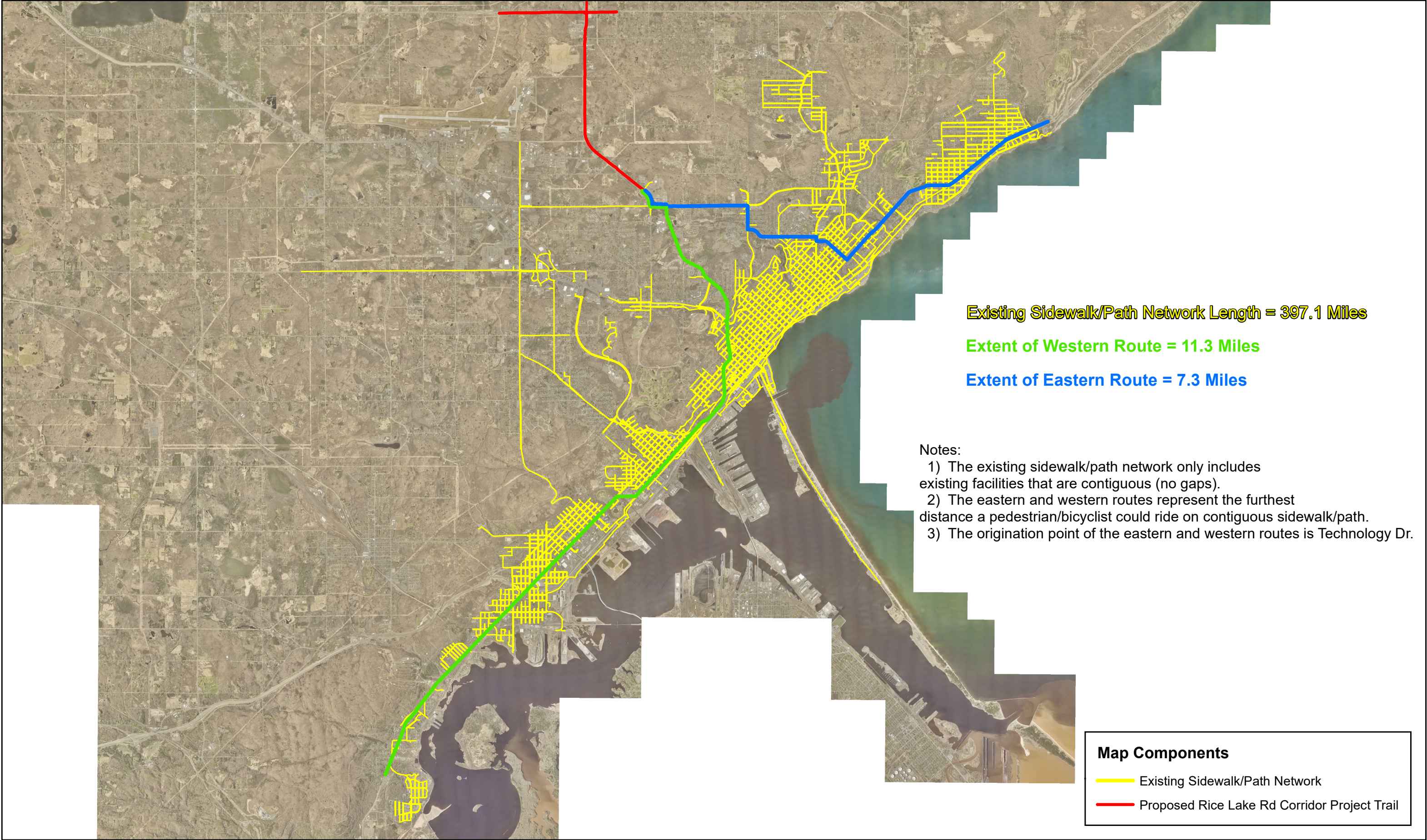
End of Trail at Destination Fitness  
Looking North



## **Connectivity to Existing Path/Sidewalk Network**



Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project Trail Connectivity





# **Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project Public Engagement Summary**



# Public Involvement Summary

Rice Lake Road Corridor Project

*January 4, 2024*

# Project Overview

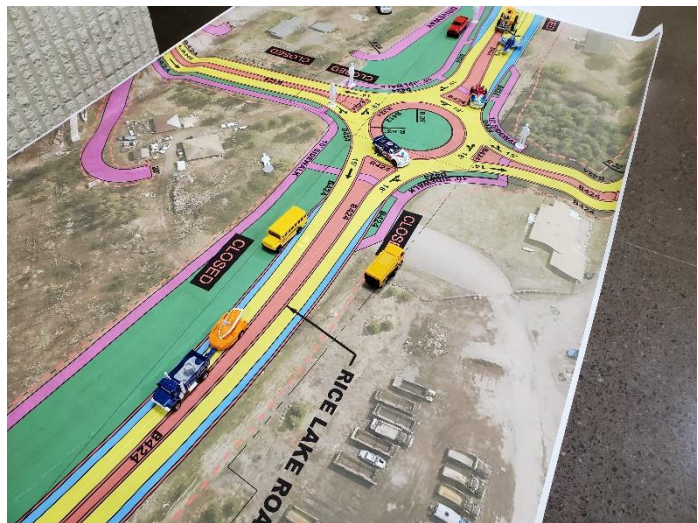
St. Louis County is requesting \$25 million in RAISE funds to create a multimodal gateway for the City of Rice Lake, Minnesota through the reconstruction of roadways, the improvement of intersections, and the construction of new multimodal trails. The Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project is a cooperative effort led by St. Louis County with the City of Rice Lake. Project goals include:

- Improve traffic safety for all transportation users at key intersections by utilizing proven safety countermeasures.
- Reduce traffic congestion and associated carbon emissions.
- Preserve the public's previous investment in the function of Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) as a Minor Arterial.
- Create a roadway corridor that invites development resulting in new housing and jobs.
- Manage access through proven access management strategies including the creation of a new city street network.
- Support traffic calming to create an environment that is welcoming to all transportation users.
- Incorporate accessibility for active transportation users.

## Goals

This project sought to engage the public in unique ways to meet the project goals.

- Ensure that project information is made available to the public in a clear, and effective manner.
- Gather meaningful feedback from stakeholders to develop a community-supported recommendation.
- Ensure that stakeholder questions and concerns are heard and addressed.
- Document the progress and effectiveness of the communications plan.



## Timeline

Public and stakeholder engagement was done throughout the three phases of the project:

- Phase 1: Spring 2023 - Seek input to identify issues and opportunities
- Phase 2: Summer 2023 - Present draft plan to the public and seek feedback

- Phase 3: Winter 2024 – Hold public open house to present the final plan

## Methods of Engagement

Following is a summary of the engagement strategies used for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project

In 2023, the County conducted an extensive engagement process. That included:

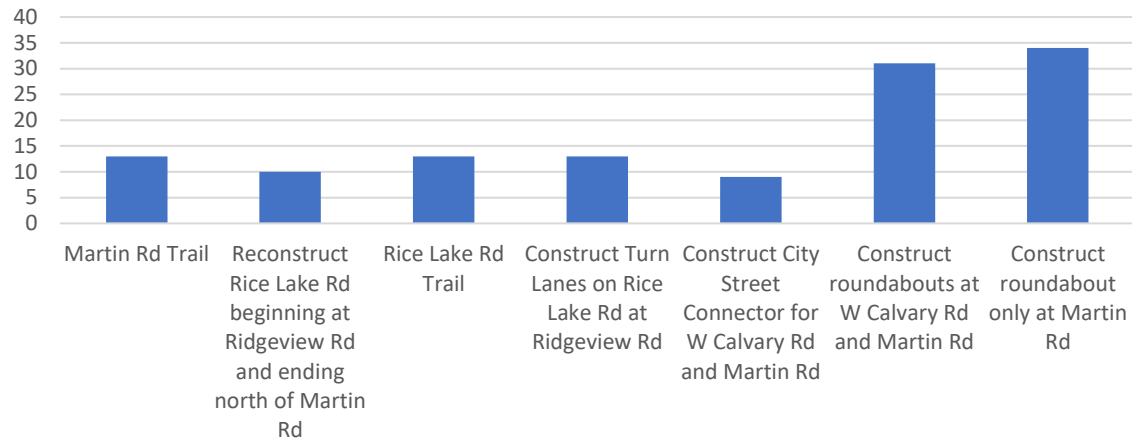
1. Several newsletters/articles sent to various groups
2. Frequent social media posts
3. Project page on the County's website
4. Table tents at area restaurants
5. Several mailings
6. Meetings with project partners and stakeholders from area governments
7. Meetings with significant property owners and stakeholder groups to understand their long-term plans
  - a. Duluth Airport
  - b. APEX
  - c. 148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing
  - d. Kwik Trip
  - e. Northland Constructors
  - f. Boomtown
8. Two public open houses at Rice Lake City Hall
9. One pop up at National Night Out event
10. Interactive map

## What we heard: General Public

St. Louis County asked, "What are your top priorities for the proposed improvements?" at the public meeting held Thursday September 21, 2023. The citizens were given 3 pom-poms to select their top 3 priorities. The top priority with 34 votes was to construct a roundabout only at Martin Road with a close second with 31 votes to construct roundabouts at W Calvary Rd and Martin Rd.



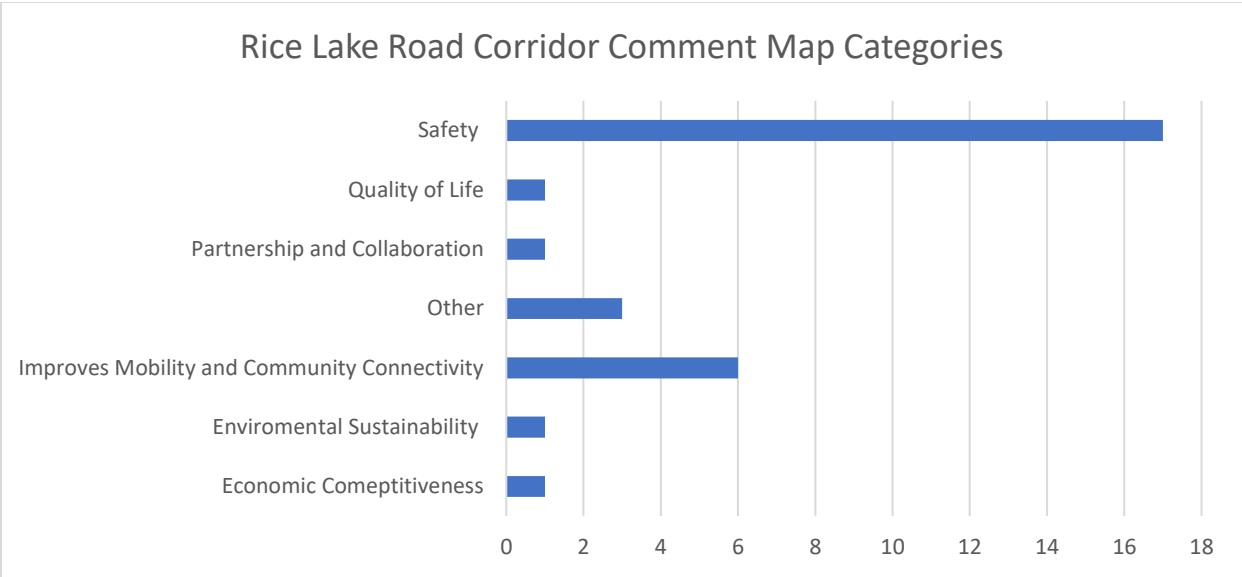
# Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project Public Meeting Thursday, September 21, 2023



When placing a comment/concern on the Rice Lake Road Corridor comment map located on the project website, respondents choose a category that best described their comment. In total we had 30 responses with the top category chosen as safety showing this is a high priority.

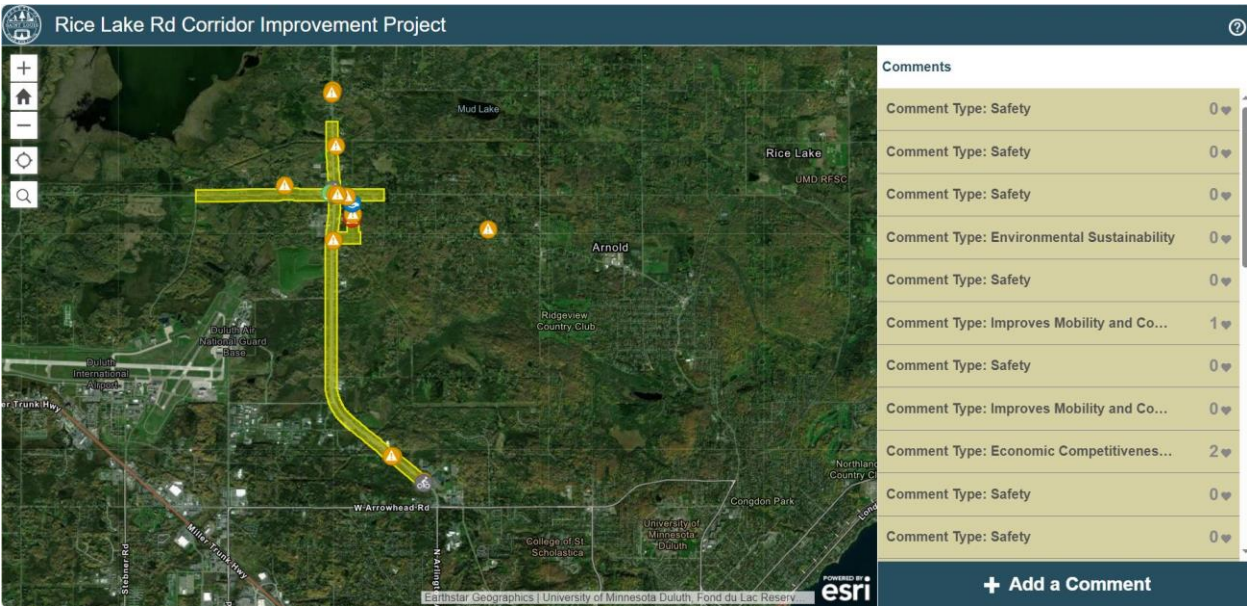






After summarizing the comments from the comment map, most residents are in favor of the roundabout saying: “Put in a roundabout.”, “I’m glad a stoplight is NOT being considered at intersection of Rice Lake & Martin Rd. Right turn on red from Martin Rd - with goes [cars] going 55 mph would be a disaster. Roundabout would hopefully solve the traffic backups.”, “A roundabout is a great option to both reduce backups and create a safer intersection. I strongly support this option”.

A concern that a few respondents showed was the reason for a “bike path” on Rice Lake Rd. They said: “Why have a bike lane out to here? No "destination" and the shoulder is already very smooth and wide along this stretch.”, “No real destination once you are past Boomtown.”.



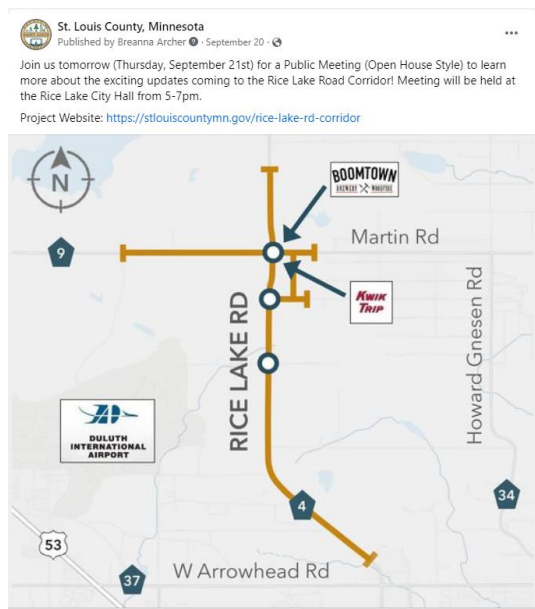
# What we heard: Business Stakeholders

In addition to receiving comments from the public, St. Louis County held meetings with key business stakeholders to hear their feedback about the project. There was a lot of discussion about the use of roundabouts. How to use a roundabout properly, safety of them, plowing them, and intermixing trucks (semis) and residential traffic. The businesses were also asked if there were any known future development plans that could affect the design of this project. A few of the businesses were able to let the project team know of expansions of their current businesses.

## How we are using what we heard

The project team has taken notes during all public and business stakeholder meetings and used those notes to revise the design plan as needed.

## Attachment 1: Sample Communications



# JOIN THE DISCUSSION

## RICE LAKE RD CORRIDOR Improvement Project





### Overview of the Project

- Reconstruct Rice Lake Rd to improve traffic flow by constructing roundabouts at W Calvary Rd and Martin Rd.
- Construct pedestrian/bicycle trails along Rice Lake Rd and Martin Rd.
- Construct a new city street to connect W Calvary Rd and Martin Rd.
- Incorporate access management along Rice Lake Rd to support future economic development.

### Join us for a Public Meeting

- Rice Lake City Hall  
4107 W Beyer Rd, Duluth, MN
- Tuesday, September 21, 2023
- 5 - 7 PM

### YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS!

Visit the website below or scan the QR code to add a suggestion to the comment map and find out more ways you can get involved!

<https://stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>



**SCAN ME**



St. Louis County Public Works  
lundv@stlouiscountymn.gov | 218-625-3873




## News Release

Public Works Department • Richard H. Hansen Transportation & Public Works Complex  
4787 Midway Road, Duluth, MN 55811 • Phone: (218) 625-3830

James T. Foldesi, P.E.  
Public Works Director/Highway Engineer

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**September 19, 2023**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Victor Lund, Traffic Engineer  
218-625-3873  
[lundv@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:lundv@stlouiscountymn.gov)

### Open house to provide updates on Rice Lake Road Corridor planning

St. Louis County Public Works continues to develop plans and get public feedback on proposed improvements to the Rice Lake Road corridor, from Ridgeview Road to north of Martin Road in Rice Lake. County engineers are hosting an open house to provide an update on plans and hear from interested citizens. The open house will be Thursday, Sept. 21, 5-7 p.m., at Rice Lake City Hall, 4107 W. Beyer Road.

Engineers have been studying this section of roadway for several years, noting the concentration of new and planned development, the expected growth in the city and corresponding traffic volumes, and safety and delay concerns at several intersections. Working with the City of Rice Lake, they have developed recommendations to improve traffic operations and safety while preserving the function of Rice Lake Road. The goal is to create a commercial corridor that invites development while also managing access, and that incorporates accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists.

#### Proposed improvements include:

- Reconstruct Rice Lake Road from Ridgeview Road to approximately 2/3 mile north of Martin Road.
- Construct single-lane roundabouts on Rice Lake Road at the intersections of West Calvary Road and Martin Road.
- Construct left-turn and right-turn lanes on Rice Lake Road at the intersection of Ridgeview Road.
- Construct a new city street to connect West Calvary Road and Martin Road.
- Construct a pedestrian/bicycle trail along Rice Lake Road from Technology Drive to approximately 1/3 mile north of Martin Road.
- Construct a pedestrian/bicycle trail along Martin Road between Stebner Road and Stavenger Road.

Anyone who lives in or travels through this area is encouraged to get involved by attending the meeting or providing input through the county's project website. More information can be found online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor](https://stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor).

## RICE LAKE RD CORRIDOR Improvement Project





<https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>

## RICE LAKE RD CORRIDOR Improvement Project



### Your Participation Matters!

Scan the QR code or visit the project website URL to learn more about the project and how you can get involved.

### Join us for a Public Meeting

- Rice Lake City Hall  
4107 W Beyer Rd  
Duluth, MN 55803
- Sept 21st, 2023
- 5-7 PM

<https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>



**SCAN ME**



**St. Louis County, Minnesota** Sponsored · 44

Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project! Come to the Public Meeting!

<https://stlouiscountymn.gov/r...>  
**Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project** [Learn more](#)

20 23 comments 10 shares

**St. Louis County, Minnesota** created an event.  
 Published by Breanna Archer · Just now · 6

THU, NOV 16 AT 5 PM  
**Rice Lake Rd Corridor Improvement Project 2nd Public Meeting**  
 Duluth, MN  
 1 Going · 0 Interested

**JOIN THE DISCUSSION**

**RICE LAKE RD CORRIDOR Improvement Project**

**SAINT LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA**

Public Works  
 4787 Midway Road  
 Duluth, MN 55811

**Join us for a Public Meeting**

Rice Lake City Hall  
 4107 W Beyer Rd, Duluth, MN

Thursday, November 16, 2023

5 PM

**Questions? Contact**  
 Vic Lund 218-625-3873 [vlundv@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:vlundv@stlouiscountymn.gov)

PRESRT STD.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 DULUTH, MN  
 PERMIT NO. 1003

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS EDDM\*\*\*\*  
 POSTAL CUSTOMER

The project team will share the final project layout and estimated cost that will be used to apply for Federal funding. Come and see the next steps for this project and how you can help make this project a reality. Visit the website below or scan the QR code to review more about this project!

**SCAN ME!**

<https://stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>



## **Resolutions and Letters of Support**

# CITY OF AURORA

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-39

### **Resolution of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

---

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Road and Vermilion Trail, collectively known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route because it connects the East Iron Range to the Twin Ports Metropolitan Area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown and Rice Lake; and

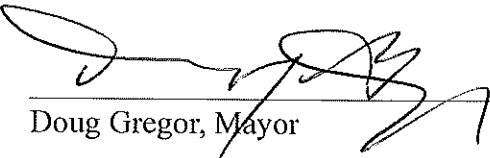
WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to economically benefit the East Iron Range; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

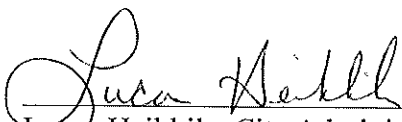
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Aurora supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the City Council of Aurora supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

**ADOPTED** this 3rd day of October, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lucas Heikkila, City Administrator

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RICE LAKE ROAD CORRIDOR PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, Rice Lake Road and Vermilion Trail, collectively known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route because it connects the East Iron Range to the Twin Ports Metropolitan Area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown and Rice Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to economically benefit the East Iron Range; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Babbitt supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the City Council of the City of Babbitt supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

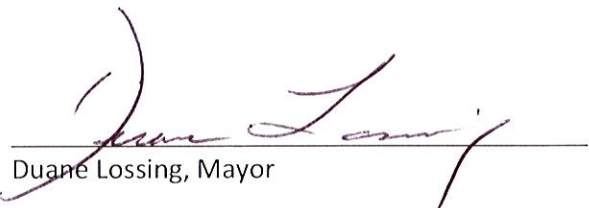
It was moved by Hoheisel, supported by Lassi, to adopt the foregoing resolution on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023, by the following roll call:

Ayes: Councilor Anderson, Hoheisel, Lassi, White, and Mayor Lossing

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried.

  
Duane Lossing, Mayor

Attest:

  
Sara Powell, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

# COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2023-19

City of Biwabik, Minnesota

## RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RICE LAKE ROAD CORRIDOR PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, Rice Lake Road and Vermilion Trail, collectively known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route because it connects the East Iron Range to the Twin Ports Metropolitan Area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown and Rice Lake; and

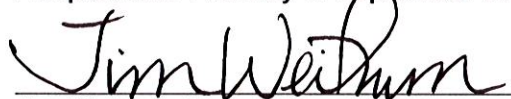
**WHEREAS**, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to economically benefit the East Iron Range; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of Biwabik supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the City Council of Biwabik supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

Adopted this 11th Day of September 2023

  
Jim Weikum, Mayor

Attest:

  
Jeff Jacobson, City Administrator

Moved by Councilor Biondich, supported by Councilor Niemj that the above resolution be adopted:

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0



Office of City Clerk  
Hermantown, MN  
Alissa Wentzlaff, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-190**

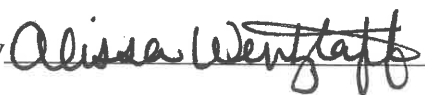
**Resolution Authorizing And Directing The Mayor And City Clerk To Execute And Deliver a Notice to St. Louis County Giving Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

Motion made by Councilor Hjelle, seconded by Councilor Jones, to adopt 2023-190 Resolution Authorizing And Directing The Mayor And City Clerk To Execute And Deliver a Notice to St. Louis County Giving Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project. Roll Call: Councilors Hjelle, Geissler, LeBlanc, Jones, and Mayor Boucher, aye. Motion carried.

I, Alissa Wentzlaff, City Clerk of the City of Hermantown, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the annexed copy of Resolution passed by the City Council of the City of Hermantown on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023, with the original in my custody as City Clerk of said City, and that the same is a true and correct transcript therefrom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said City of Hermantown, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

Alissa Wentzlaff, City Clerk

By   
City of Hermantown, MN

**Resolution No. 2023-190**

**Resolution Authorizing And Directing The Mayor And City Clerk To Execute And Deliver a Notice to St. Louis County Giving Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Road, also known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route that serves the Twin Ports metropolitan area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor and the townships of Midway, Solway, Grand Lake, Canosia, Lakewood and Duluth; and

WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to benefit the residents and businesses located within the Twin Ports metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hermantown, Minnesota as follows:

1. A Letter of Support in the form of the one attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved.
2. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Letter on behalf of the City.

Councilor Hjelle introduced the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption.

The motion for the adoption of such resolution was seconded by Councilor Jones and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Councilors Jones, Hjelle, LeBlanc, Geissler, and Mayor Boucher, aye.

and the following voted in opposition thereto:

None.

WHEREUPON, such resolution was declared duly passed and adopted December 4, 2023.

**City of Hoyt Lakes  
Resolution 2023-026**

A Resolution **supporting the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.**

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, Rice Lake Road and Vermilion Trail, collectively known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route because it connects the East Iron Range to the Twin Ports Metropolitan Area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown and Rice Lake; and

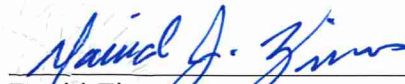
**WHEREAS**, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to economically benefit the East Iron Range; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of f Hoyt Lakes supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the City Council of Hoyt Lakes supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

Adopted by the Hoyt Lakes City Council this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Zins, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Lammi, City Administrator

TOWN OF BIWABIK

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08

**Resolution of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Road and Vermilion Trail, collectively known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route because it connects the East Iron Range to the Twin Ports Metropolitan Area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to economically benefit the East Iron Range; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Biwabik supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Town of Biwabik supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

Supervisor Hall moved the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Supervisor Paris, and it was declared adopted on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Todd Hall

Supervisor Jim Paris

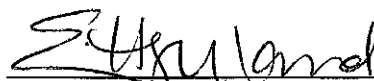
Supervisor Walter Hautala

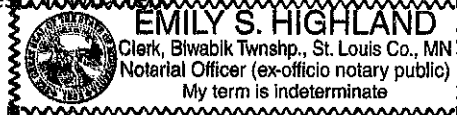
☒ Aye / ☐ Nay

☒ Aye / ☐ Nay

Aye / Nay Absent

  
Town Chairperson

  
Attest: Town Clerk



# Canosia Township

4896 Midway Road  
Duluth, Minnesota 55811

Town Board: Chair Penny Dieryck, Supervisor Kevin L. Connick, Supervisor Jeff Erikson,  
Clerk Amber Madoll, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

## Resolution #2023-22

### Resolution of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, Rice Lake Road, also known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route that serves the Twin Ports metropolitan area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor and the townships of Midway, Solway, Grand Lake, Canosia, Lakewood, and Duluth; and

**WHEREAS**, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to benefit the residents and businesses located within the Town of Canosia; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is a grant program included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA.)

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Canosia, supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and.

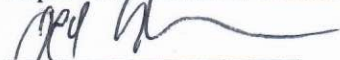
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors for the Town of Canosia supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Corridor Project.

Adopted by the Town of Canosia, Minnesota this 1st day of November, 2023.

Chair Penny Dieryck



Supervisor Kevin L. Connick



Supervisor Jeff Erikson

Attested:

  
Clerk, Amber Madoll

Duluth Township

RESOLUTION NO. 11092023

Resolution of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project

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WHEREAS, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Road, also known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route that serves the Twin Ports metropolitan area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor and the townships of Midway, Solway, Grand Lake, Canosia, Lakewood and Duluth; and

WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to benefit the residents and businesses located within Duluth Township; and

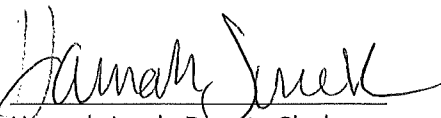
WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of supervisors of Duluth Township supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the board of supervisors of Duluth Township supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

  
Rolf Carlson, Chair

Attested:

  
Hannah Jurek, Deputy Clerk



**GNESEN TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-15  
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RICE LAKE ROAD CORRIDOR PROJECT**

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**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, Rice Lake Road, also known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route because it connects the residents and businesses in Gnesen Township to the Twin Ports Metropolitan Area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown and Rice Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to benefit the residents and businesses in Gnesen Township; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the board of supervisors of Gnesen Township supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the board of supervisors of Gnesen Township supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

Adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Nelson, Town Chair

Attest: Sarah Blix  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Blix, Town Clerk

**NORTHSTAR TOWNSHIP**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2304**

**Resolution of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

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WHEREAS, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Road, also known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route that serves the Twin Ports metropolitan area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor and the townships of Midway, Solway, Grand Lake, Canosia, Lakewood and Duluth; and

WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to benefit the residents and businesses located within Northstar Township; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of supervisors of Northstar Township supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the board of supervisors of Northstar Township supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

Township Supervisor: Janet R. Kempe Date: 11/21/2023

Township Supervisor: Richard Nelson Date: 11/21/23

Township Supervisor: Dylan Smith Date: 11-21-23



**SOLWAY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #2023-5**  
**Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Road, also known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route that serves the Twin Ports metropolitan area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor and the townships of Midway, Solway, Grand Lake, Canosia, Lakewood and Duluth; and

WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to benefit the residents and businesses located within Solway Township; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity), which grant program is included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of supervisors of Solway Township support St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER, that the board of supervisors of Solway Township support St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.**

Supervisor Gajewski moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and it was declared adopted on the 14th day of November 2023, upon the following votes:

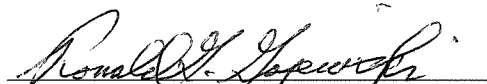
Yeas: Supervisors Gajewski, Welsh and Keppers -3

Nays: None - 0

Absent: None - 0

Approved:

Attested to by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Gajewski, Town Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tami McGregor, Town Clerk

TOWN OF WHITE

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-016

**Resolution of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

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WHEREAS, St. Louis County is currently working on the development of the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this project are to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Road and Vermilion Trail, collectively known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, is a significant regional route because it connects the East Iron Range to the Twin Ports Metropolitan Area which includes the cities of Duluth, Hermantown and Rice Lake; and


WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Road is expected to economically benefit the East Iron Range; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project through the RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) which is grant program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of White supports St. Louis County's vision for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Town of White supports St. Louis County's funding application to the RAISE Grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project.

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of White this 7th day of December, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Skelton, Chairman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jodi Knaus, Town Manager & Clerk



## DULUTH AIRPORT AUTHORITY

January 5, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary, US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to support the RAISE Grant funding application for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project located in the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake, Minnesota. This is a cooperative project between St. Louis County and the City of Rice Lake to leverage transportation improvements for the development of jobs and residential opportunities.

This project will improve Rice Lake Rd, which is a County State Aid Highway, as well as other intersecting county roads along the project corridor. These roadway improvements include construction of roundabouts and implementation of robust access management strategies. Additional improvements include construction of a new city street and paved walking and biking trails. Because of the multi-modal emphasis of this project, any new development and the associated jobs would become more accessible to residents.

The Duluth International Airport depends on the investment and success of development on the Duluth Airport campus. The Duluth International Airport is currently working to encourage private investment for new development on the north side of the airfield. This is a cooperative effort with the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake and St. Louis County because of the need for utilities and roadway improvements. The City of Rice Lake is championing the funding and installation of key utilities to access the north side of the airfield. St. Louis County's efforts to deliver the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project also fulfills a critical need to create a robust multi-modal transportation system that increases traffic capacity while also supporting investments in development that results in jobs and housing. This proposed project will help position the Duluth International Airport as a location of choice for development which will support the long-term success of the airport and the Twin Ports metropolitan area.

This project will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a new community that supports jobs, new places of residence and a good quality of life, all in one place. I am committed to supporting St. Louis County as they develop this project which will improve the mobility and safety of transportation in Rice Lake and surrounding communities.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

**Tom Werner**  
Digitally signed by Tom Werner  
Date: 2024.01.05 11:04:57 -06'00'

Tom Werner, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Duluth Airport Authority  
Duluth International Airport



# Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

November 10, 2023

James T. Foldesi  
Public Works Director/Highway Engineer  
St. Louis County Public Works Department  
4787 Midway Rd, Duluth, MN 55811

## **RE: Support for RAISE Grant Application for Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project**

Dear Mr. Foldesi,

On behalf of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC), We are writing to express our strong support for the County's RAISE grant application for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project.

As this this area's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the MIC conducts transportation planning with the overall purpose of improving the safety and functionality of the transportation network for all users and modes. Rice Lake Road is a regionally significant roadway within the MIC planning area that not only serves as a key commuter and truck route for the Duluth metro area, but also connects to the nationally strategic East Iron Range in northeast Minnesota. Robust and meaningful public engagement has been conducted since 2017 in the development of this project.

Our community-supported long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, *Sustainable Choices 2045*, includes multiple goals and objectives that will be addressed by this project. Specifically, it will support the efficient movement of both people and freight; improve safety for all modes of transportation; provide access to and connection between key population and employment centers; and stimulate local and regional economic development. Planned single-lane roundabouts on Rice Lake Road at the intersections of West Calvary Road and Martin Road are well-supported by the findings of technical Intersection Control Evaluations conducted by the MIC in 2013 and by the County in 2022.

We therefore strongly support St. Louis County's application for this project. The award of a RAISE grant would provide a meaningful investment of federal and local funds that will contribute to the attainment of our federally-required safety performance measures, prior planning recommendations and multimodal transportation system goals.

Sincerely,

Ron Chicka,  
AICP MIC Director

Wayne Boucher  
MN Board Co-Chair

Nick Baker  
WI Board Co-Chair

Cc: Wayne Boucher, MN Board Co-chair  
Nick Baker, WI Board Co-chair

221 West  
First Street  
Duluth, MN  
55802

218-529-7541

[www.dsmic.org](http://www.dsmic.org)

*Duluth-Superior  
urban area  
communities  
cooperating in  
planning and  
development  
through a joint  
venture of the  
Arrowhead Regional  
Development  
Commission and the  
Northwest Regional  
Planning Commission*

*ARDC is an equal  
opportunity employer*





2626 Courtland Street  
Duluth, MN 55806-1894  
Phone 218.722.3336  
Fax 218.727.7471



## Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

January 11, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support the RAISE Grant funding application for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project located in the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake, Minnesota. This is a cooperative project between St. Louis County and the City of Rice Lake to leverage transportation improvements for the development of jobs and residential opportunities.

This project will improve Rice Lake Rd, which is a County State Aid Highway, as well as other intersecting county roads along the project corridor. These roadway improvements include construction of roundabouts and implementation of robust access management strategies. Additional improvements include construction of a new city street and paved walking and biking trails. Because of the multi-modal emphasis of this project, any new development and the associated jobs would become more accessible to residents.

The Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) operates a Materials Recovery Center at 4587 Ridgeview Rd. This facility is accessed only by Rice Lake Rd. The Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project will construct left-turn and right-turn lanes on Rice Lake Rd at the intersection with Ridgeview Rd. Many of the 60,000+ customers that annually use this facility originate from the south, meaning they must complete a left-turn from Rice Lake Rd onto Ridgeview Rd. According to a traffic study completed by St. Louis County, there have been three (3) rear-end crashes involving northbound vehicles turning left onto Ridgeview Rd for the 10-year period of 2011-2020.

This project will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a new community that supports jobs, new places of residence and a good quality of life, all in one place. Additionally, this project will directly improve the safety of customers using this critical Materials Recovery Center. The Western Lake Superior Sanitary District is committed to supporting St. Louis County as they develop this project which will improve the mobility and safety of transportation in the Rice Lake community.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marianne Bohren'.

Marianne Bohren  
Executive Director

AMY KLOBUCHAR  
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,  
AND FORESTRY  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
United States Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: City of Rice Lake, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

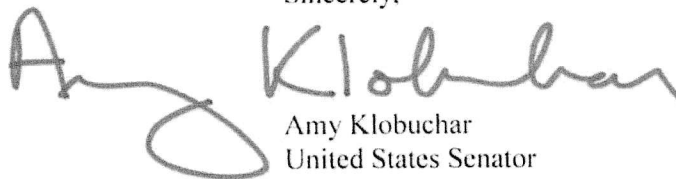
I write in support of the City of Rice Lake's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program (RAISE). If awarded, funding would support the Rice Lake Road (CSAH 4) Corridor Project, which would address critical access, capacity, and safety concerns on CSAH 4 in Rice Lake.

Located in northeast Minnesota, the city of Rice Lake is a part of the Twin Ports metropolitan area (Duluth and Superior) and is home to over 4,000 residents. Due to its proximity to the Duluth International Airport, the region is experiencing rapid growth and development. In order to accommodate for the significant growth and development in the area, the City of Rice Lake is actively seeking to address its growing infrastructure and transportation needs. The City's top priority is redeveloping and modernizing Rice Lake Road, a major arterial corridor that is essential to both the Twin Ports metropolitan area and the Iron Range.

Funding from the RAISE Program would be used by the City of Rice Lake to make critical improvements to the Rice Lake Road corridor. Specifically, funding would support the construction of roundabouts, expand options for multimodal transportation, and enhance access points on the CSAH 4 corridor. These improvements would address critical access and safety concerns, increase capacity, update aging infrastructure, and boost local economic development. If approved, the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project would support the needs of rural Minnesotans by cutting commute times, boosting businesses in the region, and improving public safety.

Again, I support the City of Rice Lake's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program. If you have any questions, please contact Rommel Lee in my Minnesota office at (612) 727-5220 or by email at [Rommel\\_Lee@Klobuchar.senate.gov](mailto:Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

**Senator Grant Hauschild**  
Senate District 3

Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave West  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Phone: 651-296-1789  
Email: sen.grant.hauschild@senate.mn



# Senate

State of Minnesota

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary, US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to support the RAISE Grant funding application for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project located in the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake, Minnesota. This is a cooperative project between St. Louis County and the City of Rice Lake to improve the local transportation system which will support new opportunities for development that results in jobs and new housing.

This project will improve Rice Lake Rd, which is a County State Aid Highway (CSAH 4), as well as other intersecting county roads along the project corridor. These roadway improvements include construction of roundabouts, creation of an urban roadway environment, and implementation of robust access management strategies. Additional improvements include construction of a new city street and paved walking and biking trails. Because of the multi-modal emphasis of this project, new jobs and housing that would result would be more accessible to residents thereby improving their quality of life.

Recently incorporated in 2015, the City of Rice Lake's Comprehensive Plan, published in 2020, has identified Rice Lake Rd as the corridor that will support its future commercial and mixed-use development. Rice Lake Rd is a key transportation corridor that serves the Twin Ports Metropolitan area and the east Iron Range. Without completing these critical roadway improvements, traffic operations and safety are expected to continue to deteriorate, and the vision of new development would therefore likely not be fully realized.

This project will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a gateway or "downtown" for the new City of Rice Lake that supports jobs, new places of residence and a good quality of life, all in one place. I am committed to supporting St. Louis County as they develop this project which will improve the mobility and safety of transportation in the Rice Lake and Duluth communities.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

Sen. Grant Hauschild  
Minnesota Senate District 3



4107 West Beyer Rd.  
Rice Lake, MN 55803  
218-721-3778  
[www.ricelakecitymn.com](http://www.ricelakecitymn.com)

January 8, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary, US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to support the RAISE Grant funding application for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project located in the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake, Minnesota. This is a cooperative project between St. Louis County and the City of Rice Lake to improve the local transportation system which will support new opportunities for development that results in jobs and new housing.

This project will improve Rice Lake Rd, which is a County State Aid Highway (CSAH 4), as well as other intersecting county roads along the project corridor. These roadway improvements include construction of roundabouts, creation of an urban roadway environment, and implementation of robust access management strategies. Additional improvements include construction of a new city street and paved walking and biking trails. Because of the multi-modal emphasis of this project, new jobs and housing that would result would be more accessible to residents thereby improving their quality of life.

Recently incorporated in 2015, the City of Rice Lake's Comprehensive Plan, published in 2020, has identified Rice Lake Rd as the corridor that will support its future commercial and mixed-use development. Rice Lake Rd is a key transportation corridor that serves the Twin Ports Metropolitan area and the east Iron Range. Without completing these critical roadway improvements, traffic operations and safety are expected to continue to deteriorate, and the vision of new development would therefore likely not be fully realized.

This project will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a gateway or "downtown" for the City of Rice Lake that supports jobs, new places of residence and a good quality of life, all in one place. I am committed to supporting St. Louis County as they develop this project which will improve the mobility and safety of transportation for the Rice Lake community.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Herstad", is written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Herstad  
Mayor





December 7, 2023

Mr. Victor Lund, PE  
Traffic Engineer  
St. Louis County, MN

**VIA EMAIL**  
lundv@stlouiscountymn.gov

**RE: CSAH 4 (Rice Lake Road) Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project**

Dear Mr. Lund:

I am writing to support St. Louis County's Project. on Rice Lake Road, also known as County State Aid Highway No. 4, it is a significant regional route that serves the Twin Ports metropolitan area. The County's goals of this project to improve traffic operations and traffic safety while supporting future residential and business development along the Rice Lake Road corridor align with the City of Hermantown's comprehensive plans and will serve several municipalities.

The City appreciates the partnership between the City and St. Louis County. Please call, if you have an additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Boucher". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wayne Boucher, Mayor  
City of Hermantown

**Working together to serve and build our community.**

5105 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811  
218-729-3600 [hermantownmn.com](http://hermantownmn.com)