

# 2026 MCEA SUMMER CONFERENCE



2025 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

**RICE COUNTY**  
*Minnesota*



# TH 19/I-35/CSAH 46/CR 59 Roundabout



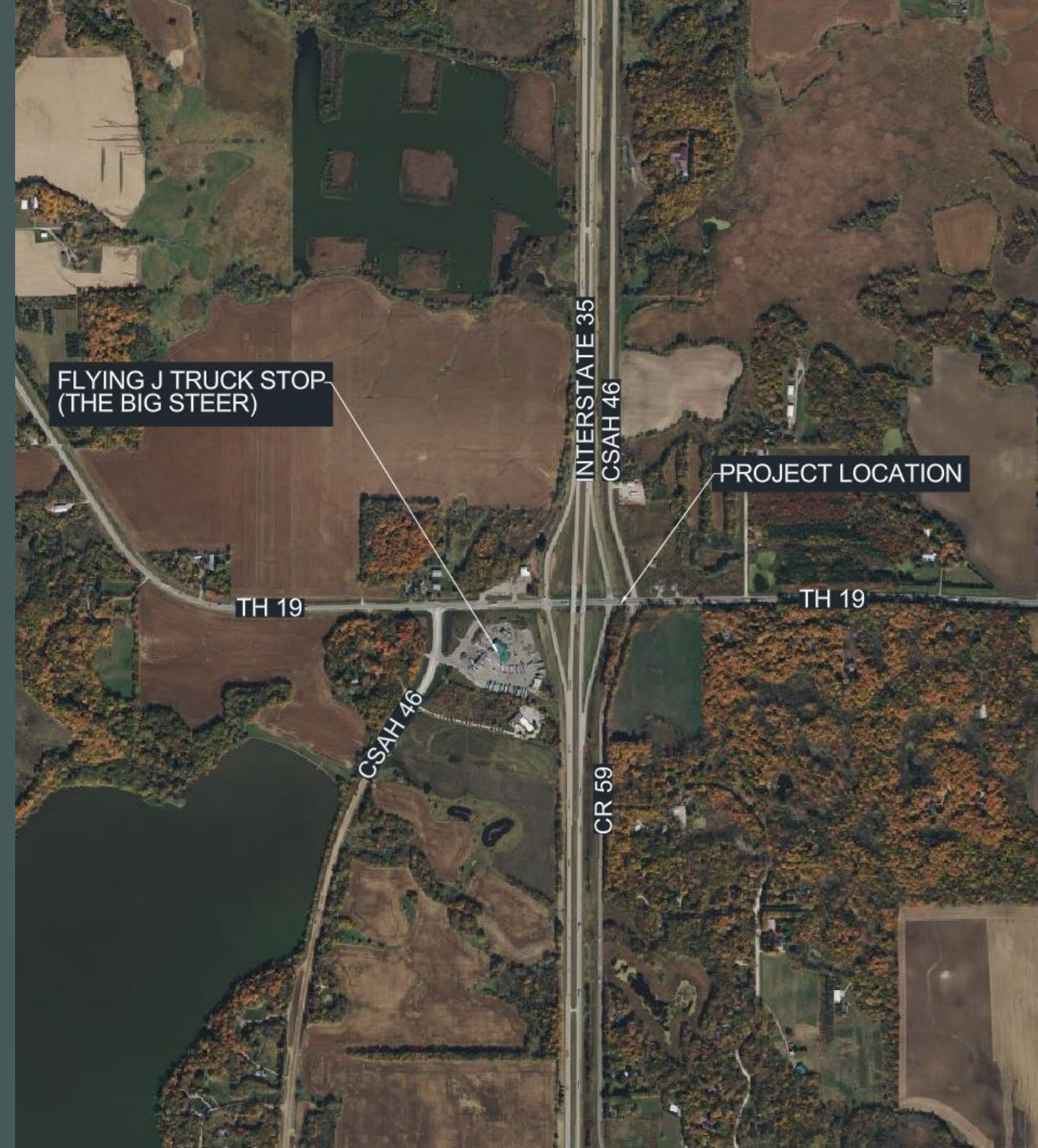


# INTRODUCTION

## ➤ Our Roles

- Dennis Luebbe - County Engineer
- Chad Sweeney - Assistant County Engineer
- Bill Zidon - Design/Construction Engineer
- John Siemers - Engineering Technician Senior
- Dave Betts - Consultant Project Manager
- Bill Brown - Consultant Project Engineer

## ➤ Project Location



# Project Development



- Kimley-Horn (2019 Study)
- Stonebrooke Engineering
- Braun Intertec (Geotech)
- MNDOT
  - D6
  - Geometric Design Support Unit
  - State Aid



# Funding

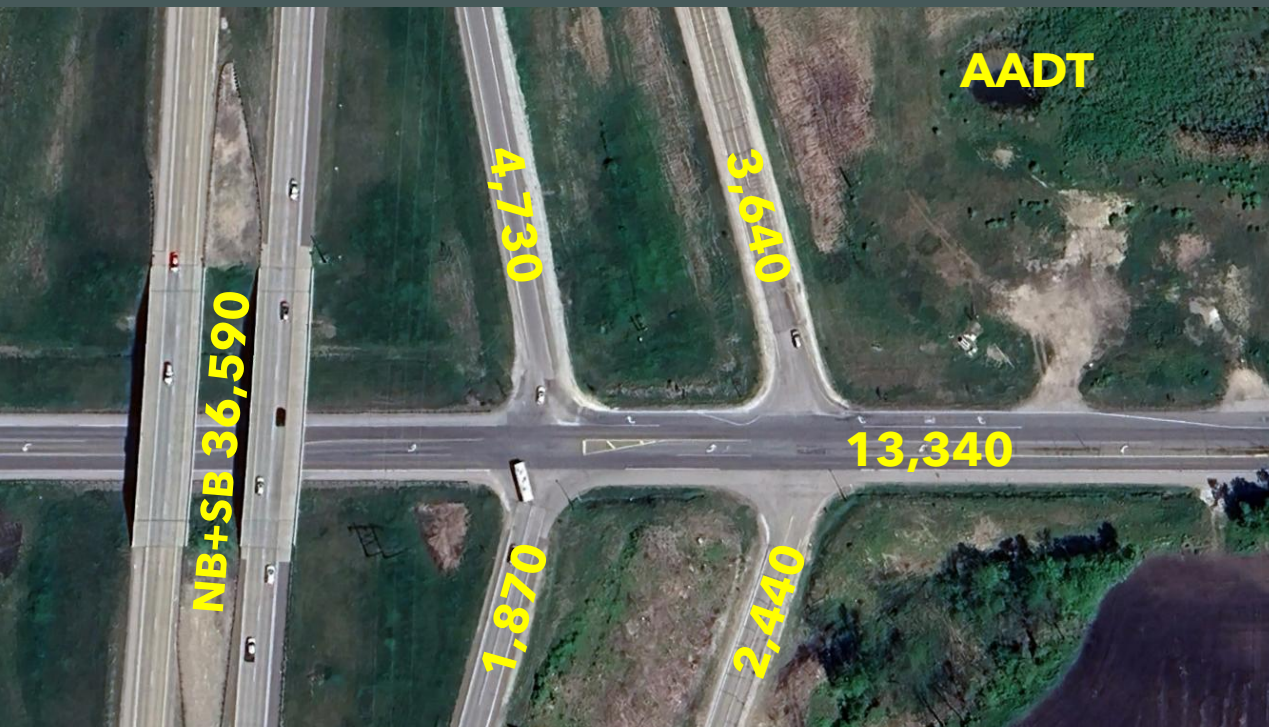
Awarded = \$4.8M

- Fed Surface Transp. Block Grant -\$1.1M
- Highway Safety Imp. Prog. (HSIP) - \$1.64M
- Local Partnership Program (LPP)- \$1.45M
- CSAH - \$247K
- Local Option Sales Tax - \$375K

Final Project Cost = \$4.75M



# Existing Conditions & Need For The Project



Congestion & Confusion





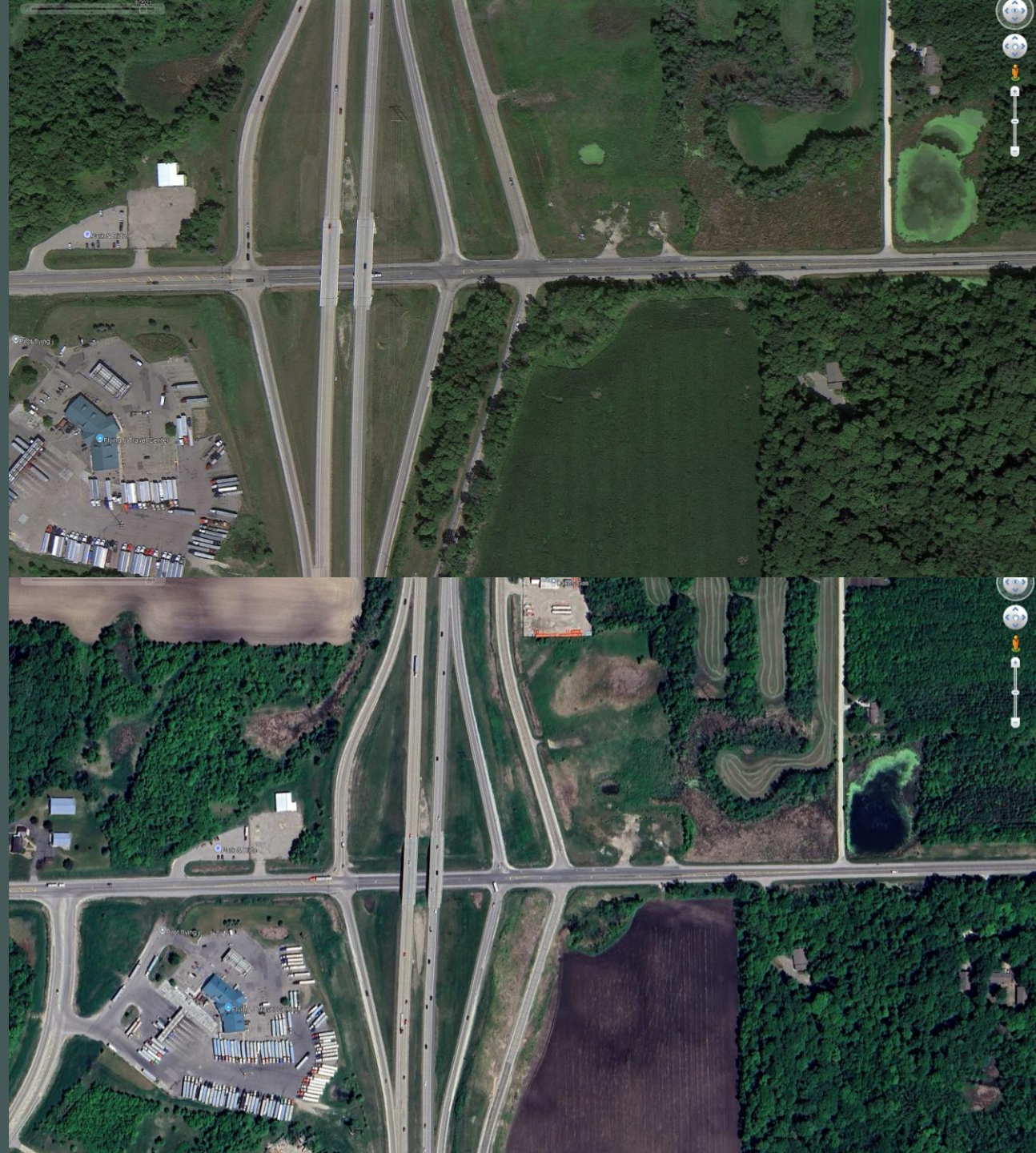
# Environmental

- Potential Contaminated Soils
- Categorical Exclusion (CATEX)
- Phase I & Phase II Environmental Assessment
  - Proactive coordination ensured the project proceeded without costly remediation or delays.
- Long-Eared Bats
- Wetlands

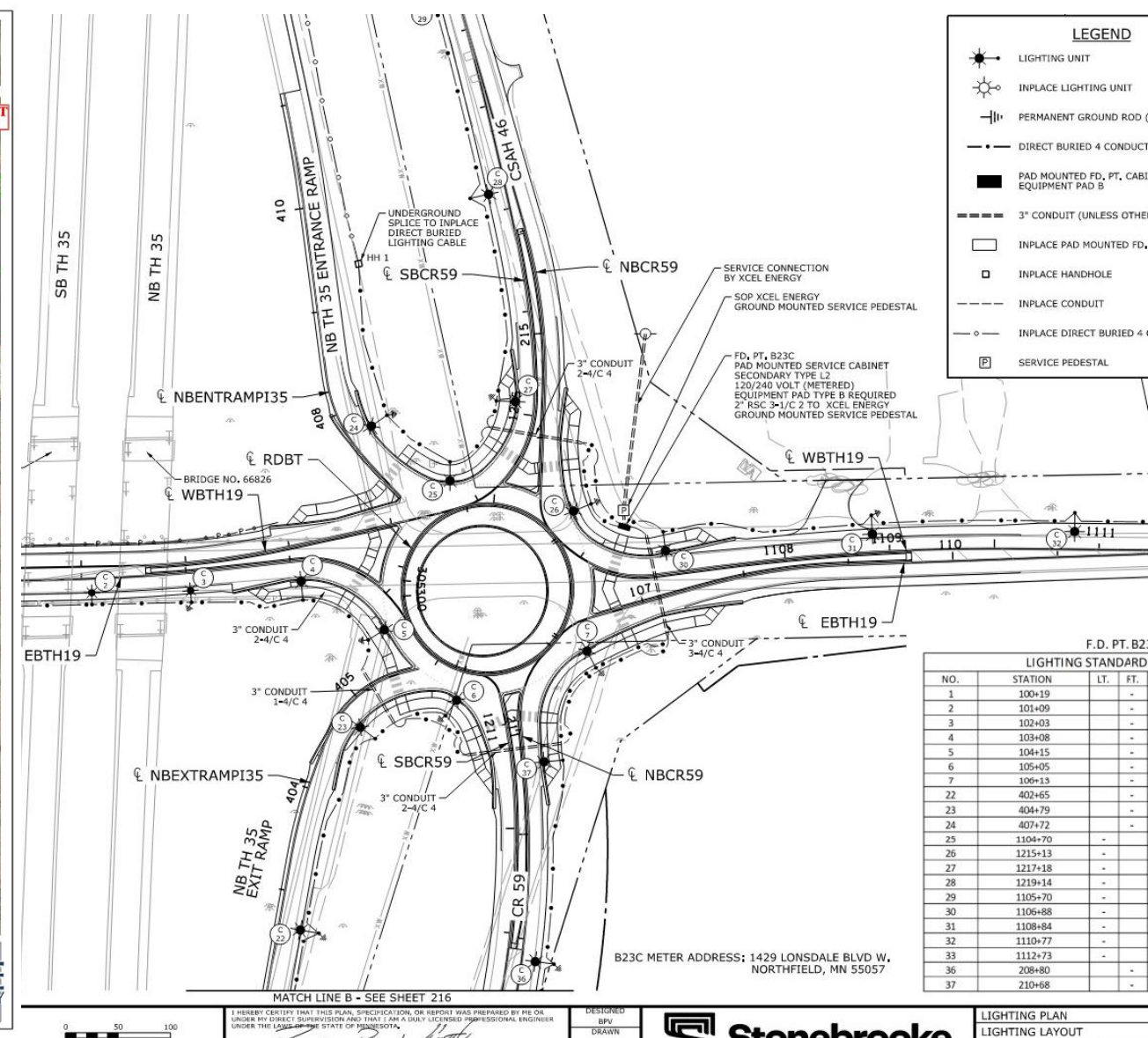
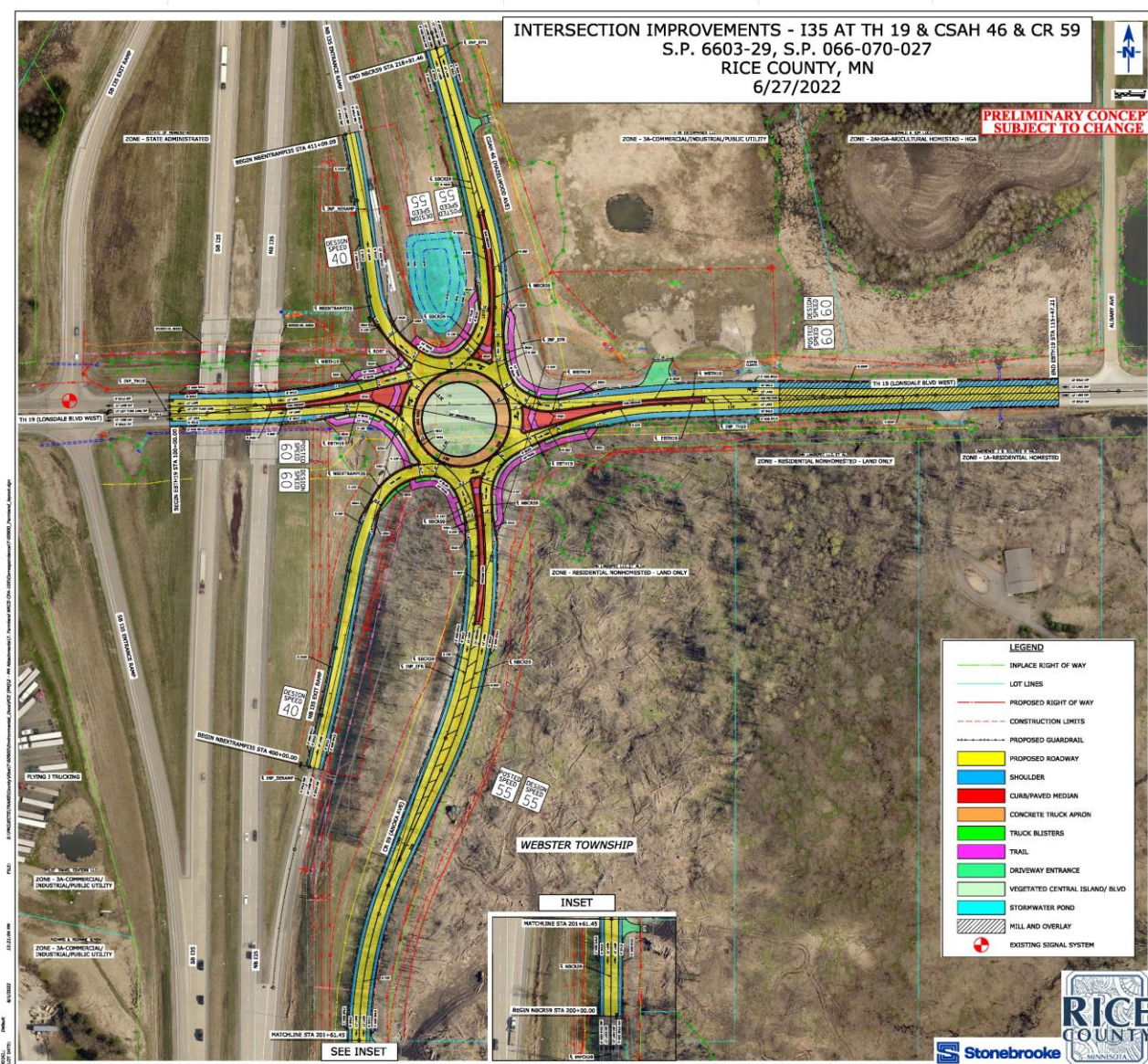




# Tree Clearing (Winter of 2023)

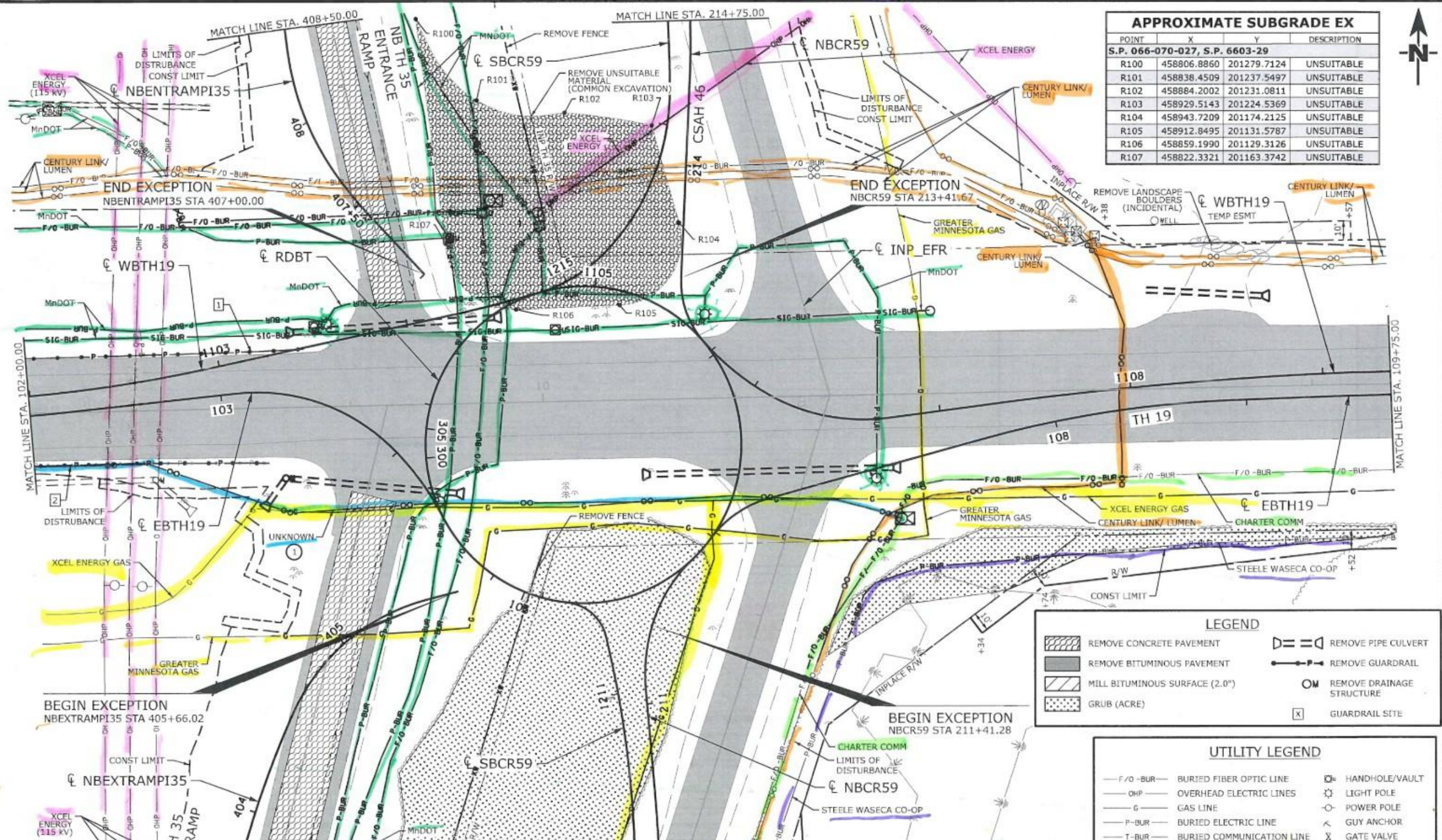






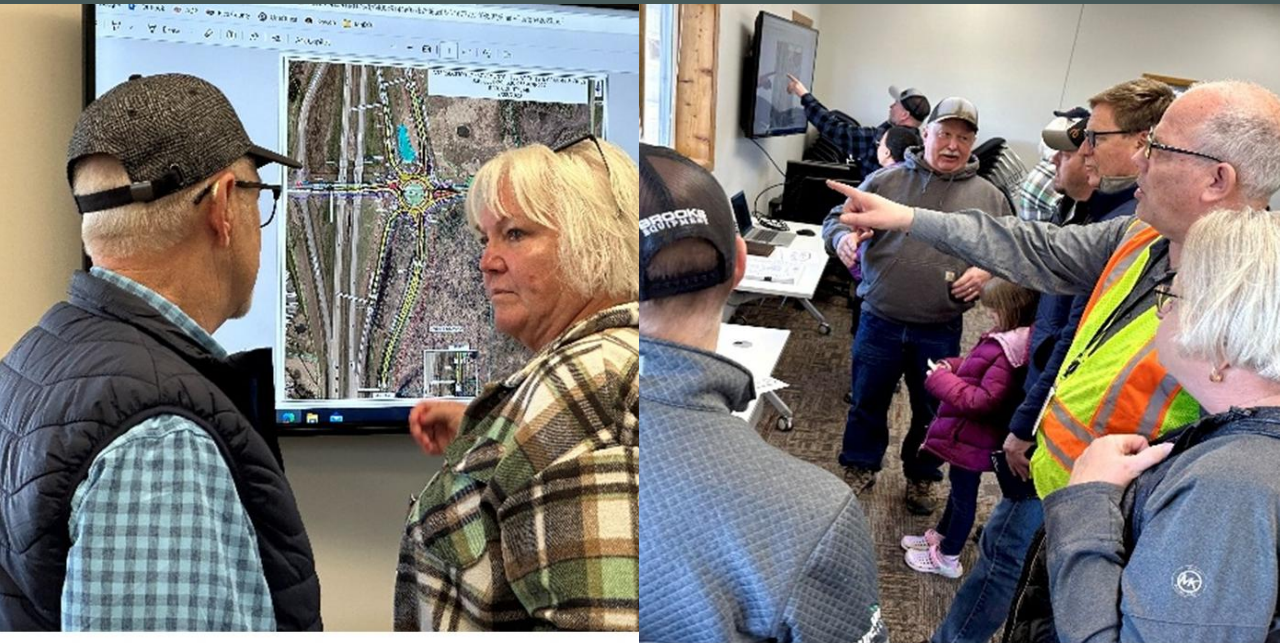
# Design Features







# Public Open Houses



Open House for the TH 19 Roundabout the TH 19 Roundabout



## Rice County/MnDOT TH 19 Roundabout

Virtual Open House: September 30th – October 20th  
In-Person Open House: October 14th

Dear Community Stakeholder,

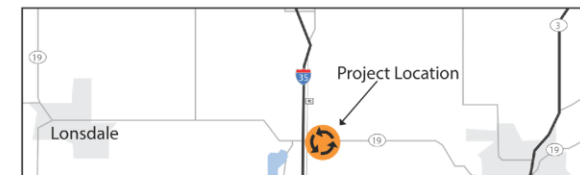
Rice County is excited to share the plans for proposed improvements to the intersections of TH 19, I-35, County 46, and County 59. These improvements are planned to be constructed in 2023.

You are invited to view the TH 19 Roundabout Virtual Open House which includes the Concept Layout, a Top 10 Roundabout Myths video, and more! You will have an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions for this project.

For those who wish to interact with project staff in-person, there will be an in-person Open House on Thursday, October 14, 2021; 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Rice County Highway Department, 610 20th Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021.

To view the Virtual Open House at your convenience, beginning September 30th, go to the link:

<https://www.ricecountyth19rab.com>





# Construction



## Challenges

- Schedule of Materials
- Keeping TH 19 Open
- Rain (20" in May & June)
- Concrete wall
- Miscommunication between the Contractor and their surveyor for staking structures
- Not constructing bypass wide enough
- Wrong way traffic during Stage 2B
- Curb and gutter construction methods (models & forms)
- ADA on bituminous trail
- Stage 3B - no space to construct mill/overlay (Close TH 19)



# Construction

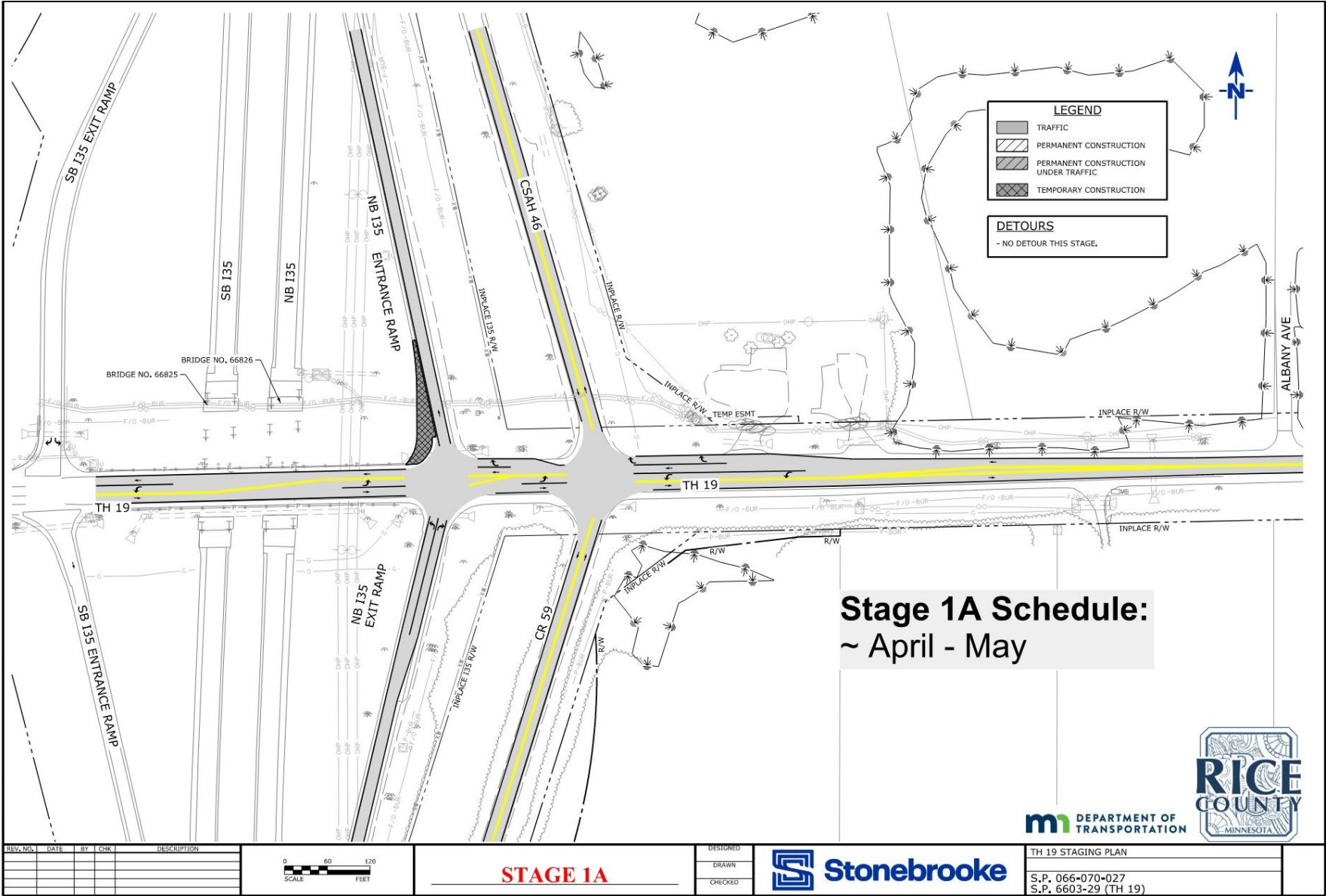
- Problem Solving During Construction
  - Craig Lenz
  - David Tsang
- Public Communication
  - Website
  - 511





# STAGE 1A

## Widen I-35 On Ramp To Shift Traffic





# STAGE 1A

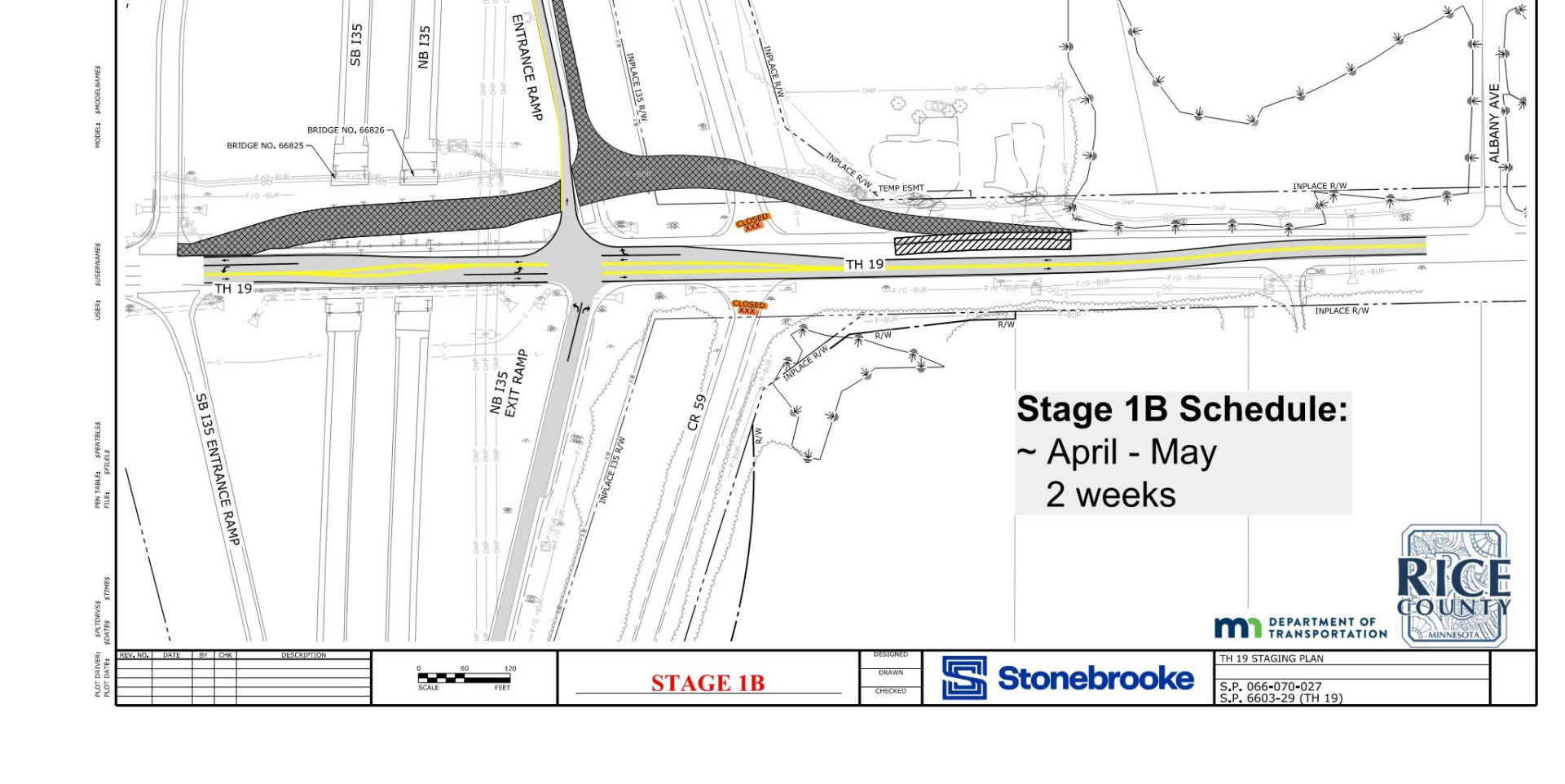




# STAGE 1B

## Construct Temporary Bypass Road

The map illustrates the project area, showing the proposed temporary bypass road. The map includes the SB I35 Exit Ramp, NB I35, and CSNH 46. A legend indicates traffic, permanent construction, permanent construction under traffic, and temporary construction. A detour route is shown, and a note states "NO DETOUR THIS STAGE."





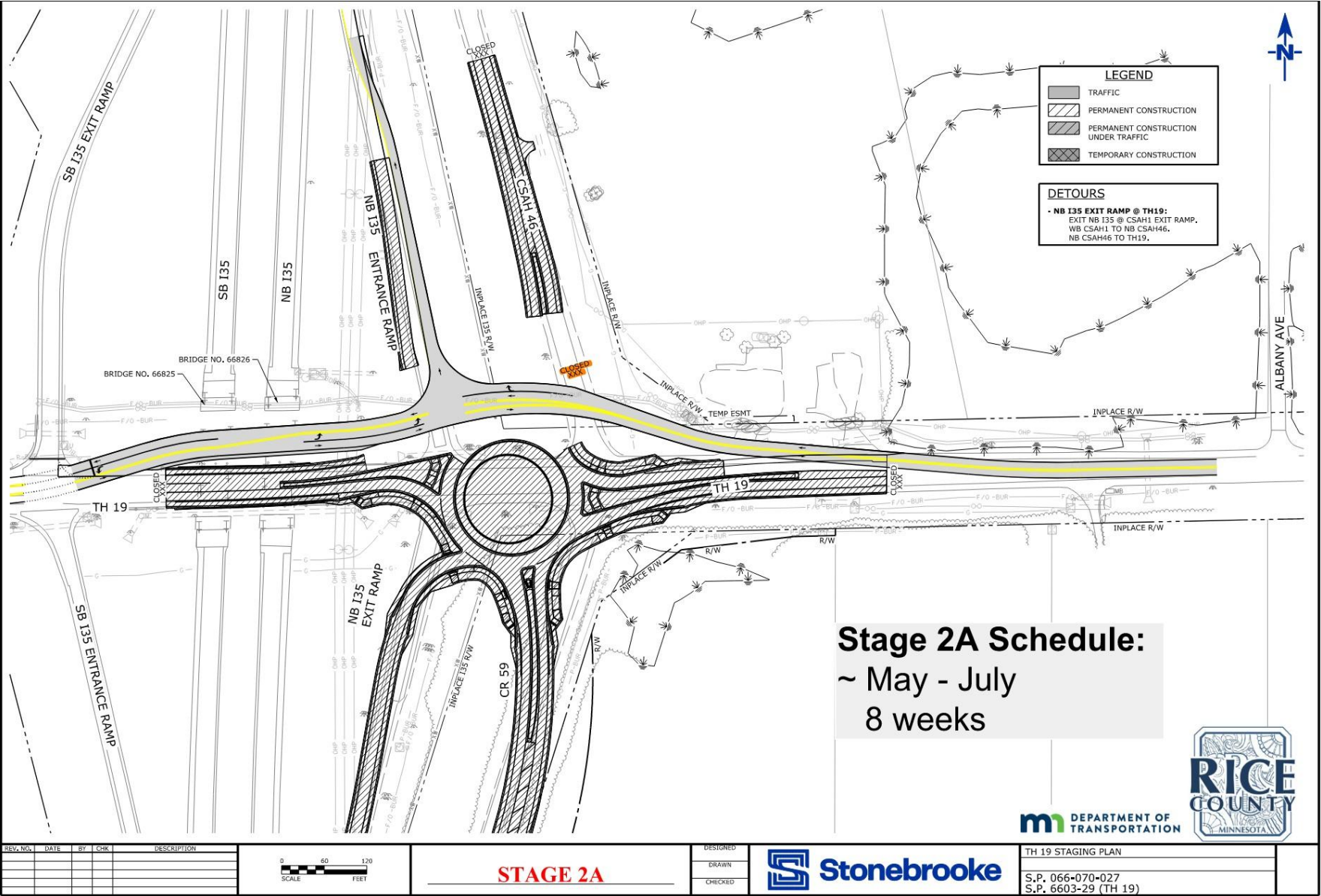
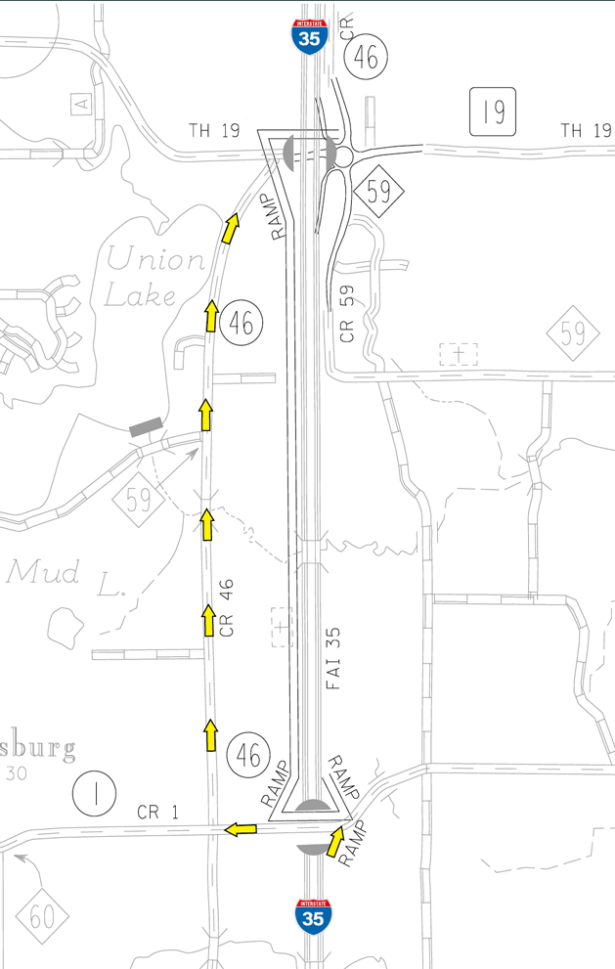
# STAGE 1B





# STAGE 2A

## Shift Traffic, Removals, & Construct Roundabout Close Exit Ramp





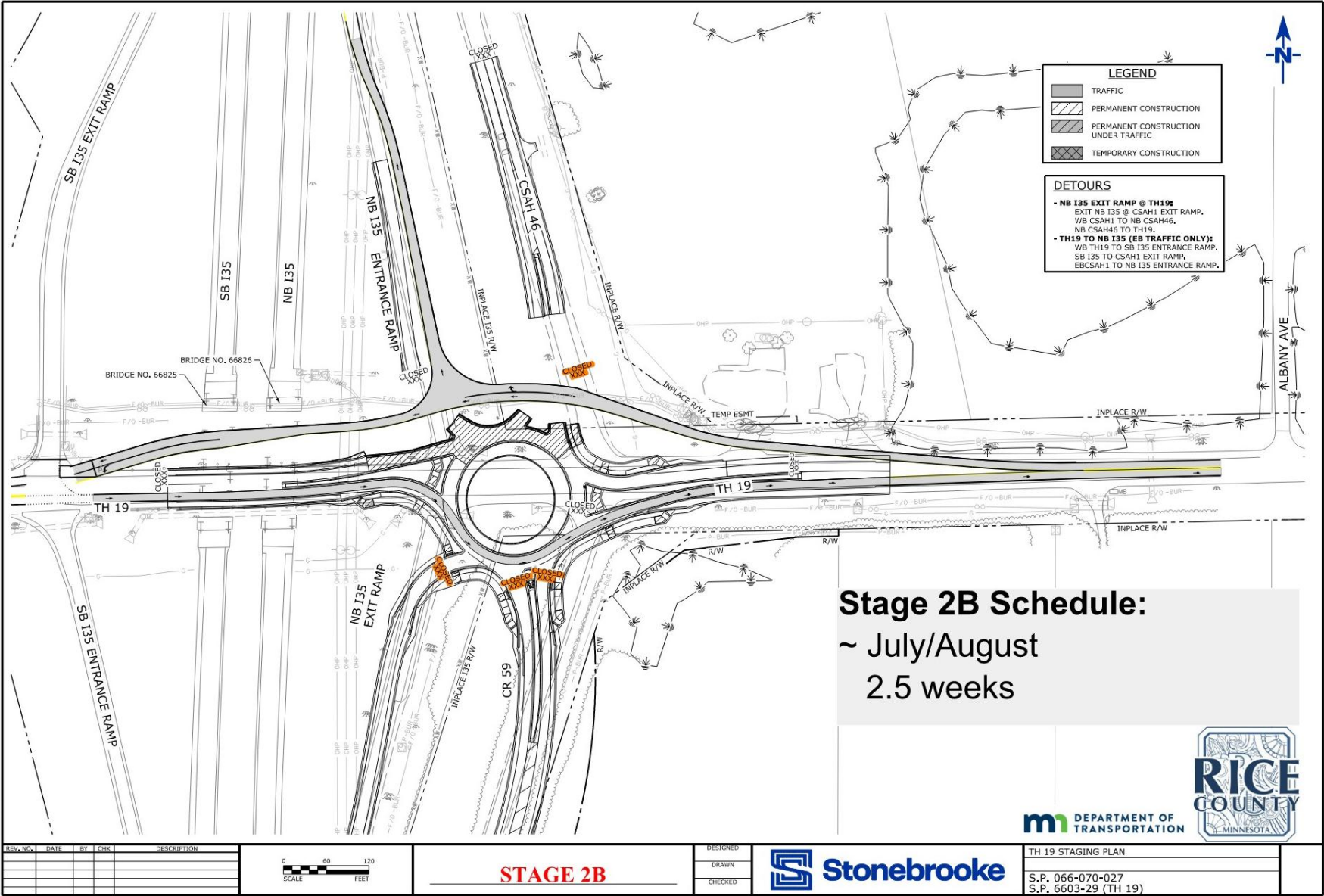
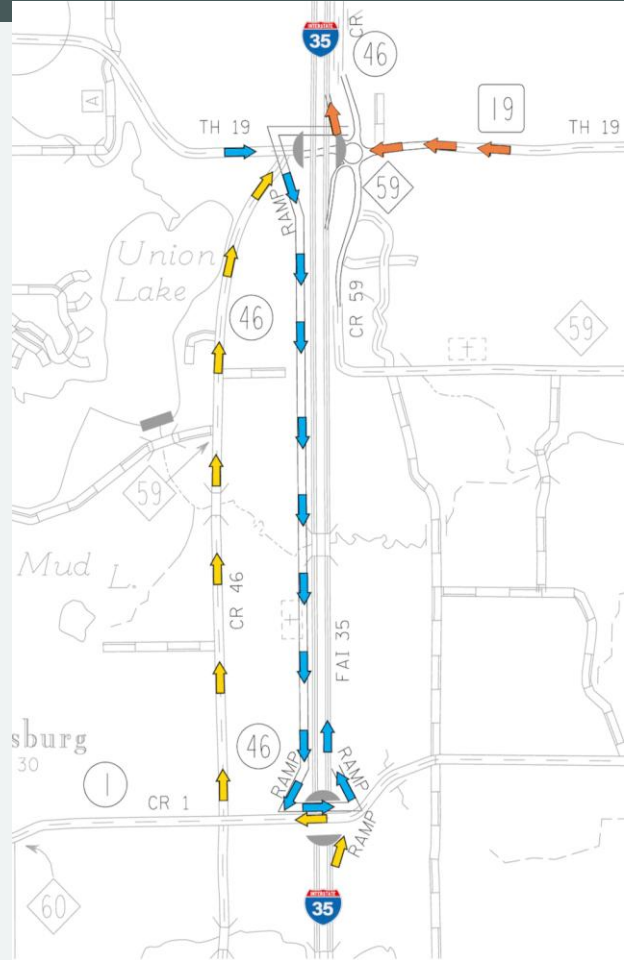
# STAGE 2A





# STAGE 2B

Shift E-Bound Traffic





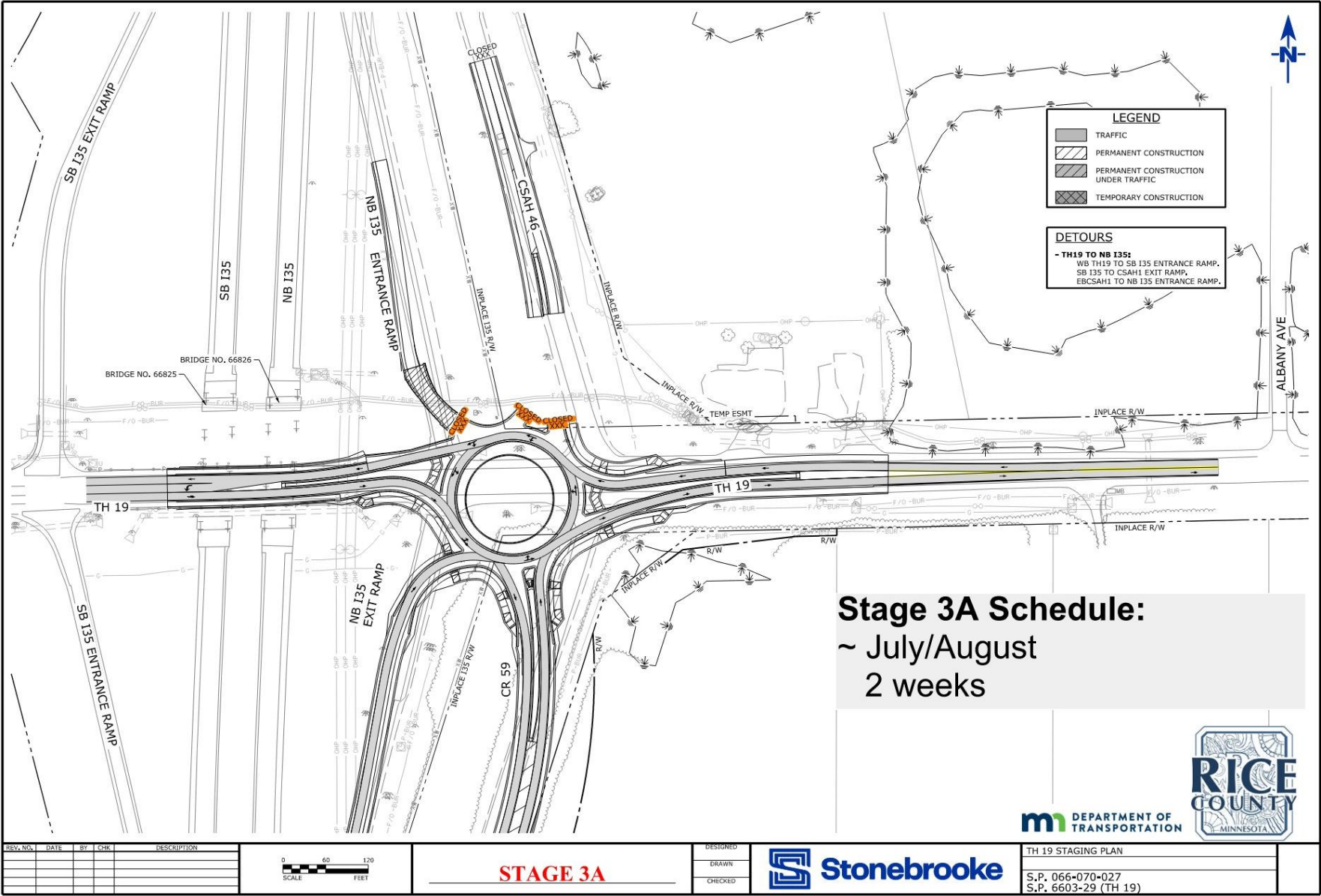
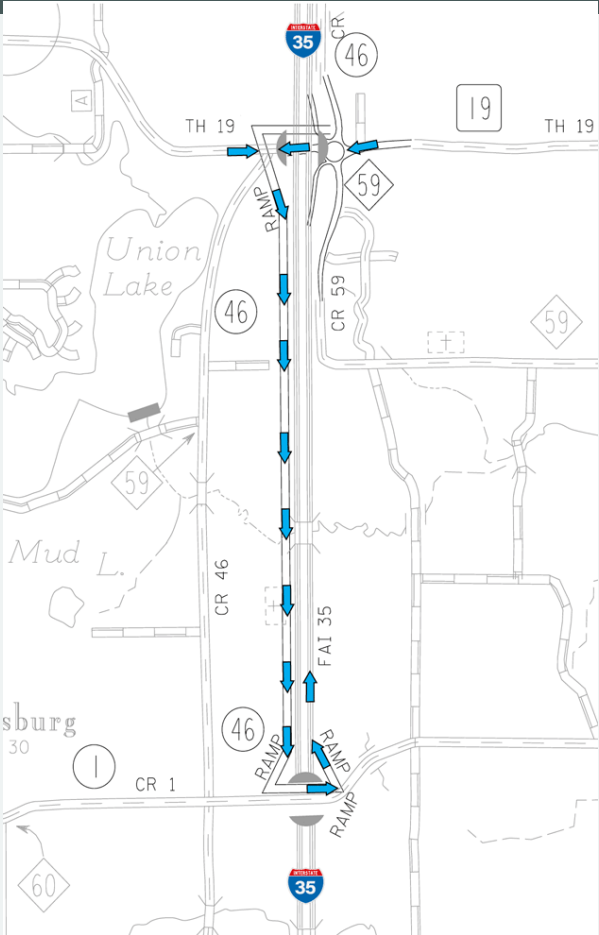
# STAGE 2B





# STAGE 3A

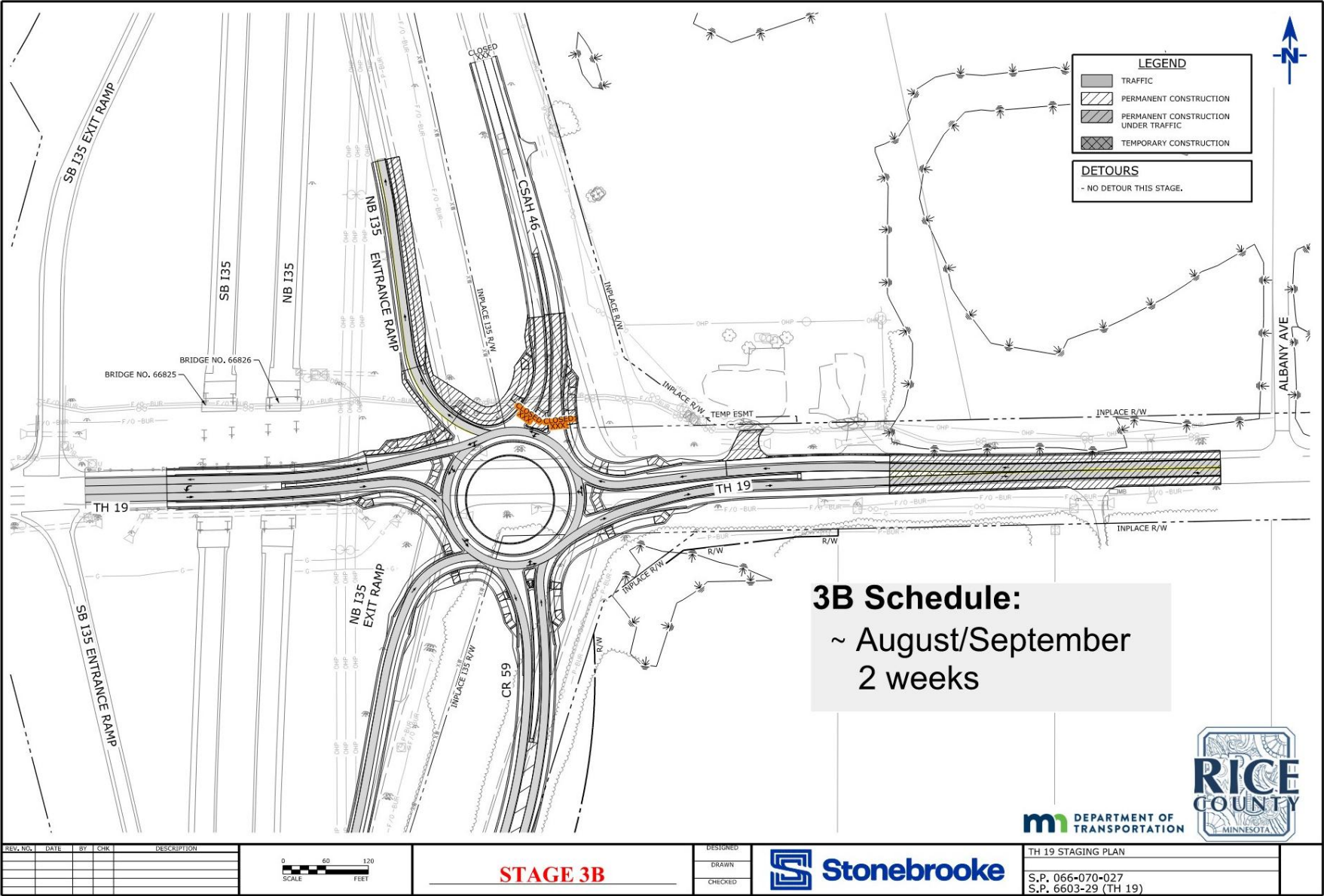
Open Roundabout!!  
Close On Ramp





STAGE 3B

TH 19 Mill/Overlay & Construct CSAH 46





# Stage 1B – Directional Drill Temp Culvert Under I-35 On Ramp





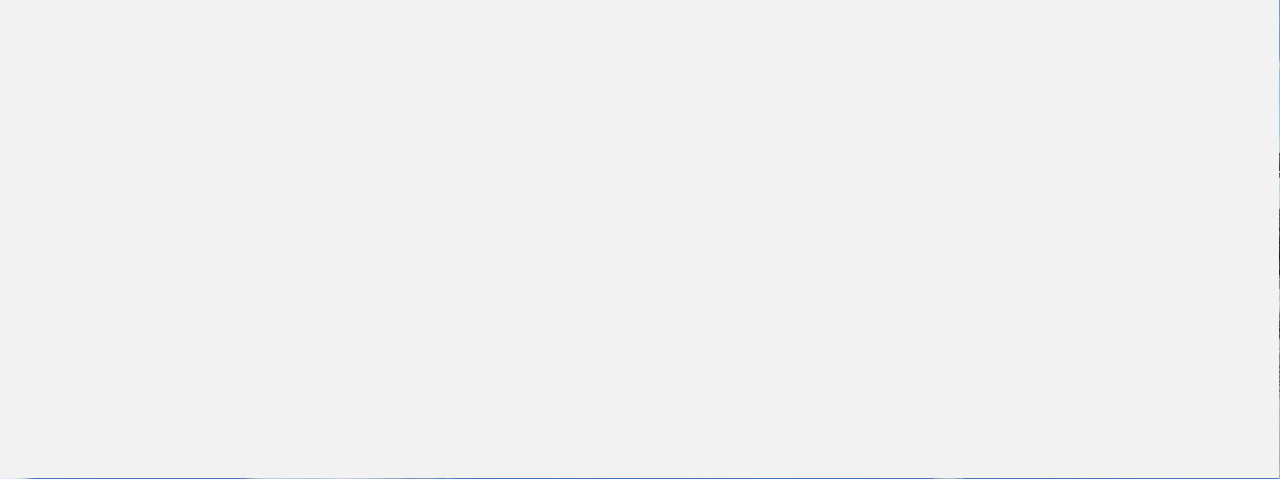




# MnDOT Approved Sign Mount?









# Rain & More Rain









Surprise!!  
Concrete  
Under TH 19







CR 59  
CUT









Brand new curb machine



Wavy Curb & Gutter



Replacing New Curb & Gutter



























# Project Outcome







# Questions?

Solar Lights  
Carbon Credits!

