



Feb. 22, 2024
For immediate release

County sets open house to discuss roundabout plans as project start nears

Note: This release reflects a change in location. The event will now be held at Bridgewater Town Hall.

With construction of the six-legged roundabout at the Hwy. 19/Interstate 35 interchange about to begin, Rice County officials will discuss the project and its impact on traffic at a Tuesday, March 19 informational open house.

The open house will run from 4-6 p.m. at the Bridgewater Town Hall, 500 Railway St., Dundas.

The event will not include a formal presentation so attendees may come and go as they please.

There will also be a virtual option for those unable to attend in person. Attend virtually at bit.ly/RiceCo_RoundaboutOpenHouse. Use Meeting ID 342 117 0614 and 1234 as the passcode.

Attendees are encouraged to ask questions during the open house, and to check out the project page, which will be updated as construction progresses.

In October, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved construction of the roundabout on the east side of the Hwy. 19/I-35 interchange. The project will connect Hwy. 19 with the interchange's northbound on and off ramps as well as the frontage roads (County Roads 46 and 59) on either side of the highway. A section of County Road 59/Anoka Avenue will also be realigned. Work is set to start in late April and expected to be complete by fall 2024.



Construction of a six-legged roundabout on the east side of the Hwy. 19/I-35 interchange will begin this spring. County leaders have worked since 2019 to find funding for the project they've long urged MnDOT to complete. (Rice County photo)

Project staging will include a temporary road under the I-35 overpass. Hwy. 19 traffic will be maintained throughout construction though County Roads 46 and 59 will be closed. The northbound I-35 ramp will be closed at times. Motorists planning to travel in the area should check the project page on the county website, https://bit.ly/RiceCo-19_35roundabout or the state's travel information website, 511mn.org.

Roundabouts keep traffic moving, says County Engineer Dennis Luebke. Additionally, they're safer because they greatly reduce the likelihood of side-impact crashes which are considered the deadliest.

According to MnDOT, roundabouts show an 86% decrease in fatal crashes, an 83% decrease in life-altering injury crashes and a 42% overall decrease in the injury crash rate at intersection.

To receive email updates about this project, visit ricecountymn.gov/list.aspx, enter your email address and select I-35/Hwy 19 roundabout project under the Notify Me section.

Media contacts:

Dennis Luebbe, Rice County Engineer

dennis.luebbe@ricecountymn.gov

507-332-6110

Suzy Rook, Communications Coordinator

suzy.rook@ricecountymn.gov

507-384-6509