

CITY OF NORTH BRANCH

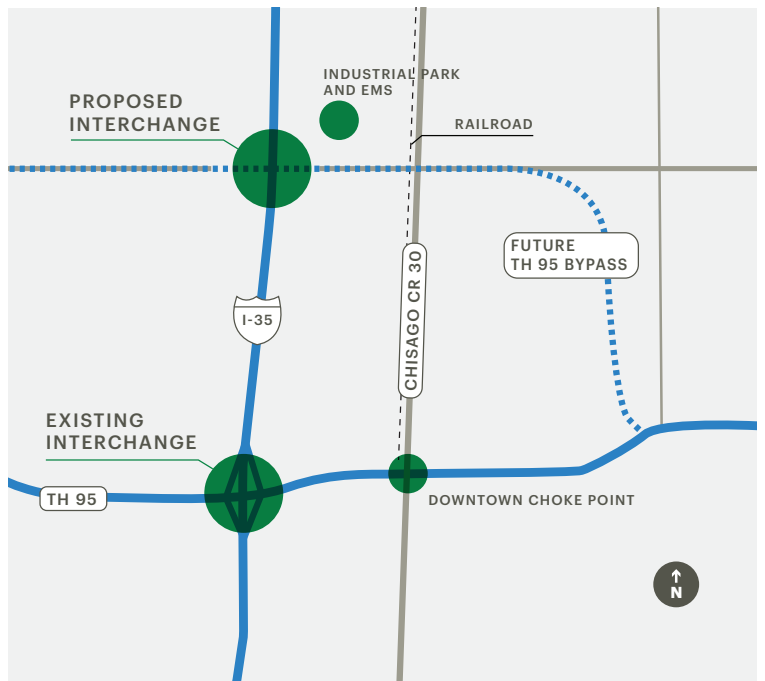
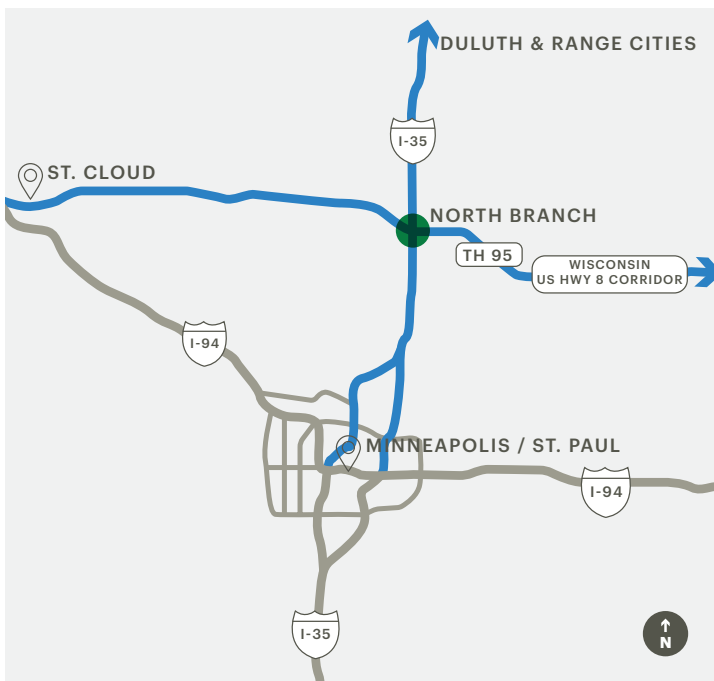
I-35 AND 400TH STREET INTERCHANGE PROJECT



PROJECT INFORMATION

The City of North Branch is partnering with Chisago County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for a new interchange at I-35 and 400th St. The completed project will provide vital access to I-35, north of the TH 95 access in North Branch, will improve emergency response times and will increase safety in the area.

- Currently, Highway 95 provides the only access to I-35 and the ability to cross the freeway for miles.
- Highway 95 is heavily traveled and experiences extreme congestion, especially on weekends as it serves as a main connection to many weekend vacation destinations.
- Public safety responders have an extremely difficult time accessing I-35 during times of peak congestion, significantly impacting response times.
- There are high volumes of truck traffic that pass through the Highway 95 and County Road 30 intersection, further complicating and adding to the public safety issues.



“Today, Lakes Region EMS has one option to access and cross Interstate 35, a significant artery for our service to operate. When an ambulance responds to a 911 call, seconds matter. On any given day, at any time, the current I-35 access is clogged with traffic causing measurable delays. It’s not an overstatement that another access to I-35 would save lives.”

Aarron Reinert

Executive Director, Lakes Region
Emergency Medical Services



"The congestion around the I-35 access happens too frequently and has an impact on our ability to serve and support our community. Our police force is often called upon to relieve heavy traffic in the area, taking them away from other important responsibilities. Our volunteer firefighters must navigate traffic to reach the station, to then respond to an emergency. I'm hopeful an additional access point would clear congestion for our community."

Dan Meyer
North Branch Police Chief/
Emergency Management Director

The addition of an interchange north of the Highway 95 interchange will significantly improve public safety response for the region. It will also significantly reduce the number of trucks using the Highway 95 and County Road 30 intersection to access I-35. The interchange will also reduce congestion in the North Branch downtown area along Highway 95 which will result in improved pedestrian/bike access and safety along the corridor.

PROJECT READINESS

- An interchange concept was completed in 2019 and developed parameters for reserving right of way and ensuring public utility placement would not be in conflict with the new interchange.
- The City of North Branch owns or has control on 3 of the 4 interchange quadrants,
- Limited right of way acquisition is needed in the 4th quadrant.
- All nearby development activity is reviewed and conditioned to have no impacts on this future interchange.

PROJECT COST

Estimated planning and design costs

\$4M

\$23-24M

Estimated construction costs

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information, visit:

http://www.ci.north-branch.mn.us/departments/city_engineer/400th_st_and_i35_interchange_project.php



"The City of North Branch has seen significant growth in the past decade, and a new interchange/400th Street bridge bypass is essential to alleviate traffic and safety concerns through our downtown corridor. MN Hwy 95 bisecting our entire downtown has created a number of safety concerns for pedestrians, bikers, trail crossings, motor vehicles, and trucks. It is imperative that we address this escalating issue."

Commissioner Jim Swenson
Chisago County, District 1

"Our North Branch Area Schools and the communities we serve would realize great benefits from an additional I-35 Interchange. Reduced congestion would create safety benefits for our students, teachers and staff, on foot and in vehicles. We want to do whatever possible to avoid safety issues exacerbated by an increase in regional traffic. An additional interchange also has logistic and economic benefits as it would shorten bus rides and reduce fuel costs. I'm excited about the positive impact this project would have on the area."

Sara Paul
Superintendent - North Branch
Area Public Schools

The City of North Branch and their agency partners believe the addition of the interchange will result in valuable and necessary safety, economic and traffic improvements. [To continue this project, the team is respectfully requesting \\$4M in vital funding to bring the project to a shovel ready state.](#)