

County Road 50 and Interstate 35 Bridge Improvements



[SF1265](#) (Duckworth) / [HF1349](#) (Koznick)
[HF50](#) (Koznick) / [SF1264](#) (Duckworth)

The issue: County Road 50 at Interstate 35 in Lakeville is insufficient for current and growing traffic volumes. Pedestrian safety is impaired along the county road.

The solution: State funding in 2025 for construction of new Interstate 35 bridges over County Road 50, new freeway ramps and auxiliary lanes, and an expanded County Road 50 interchange that will accommodate traffic needs and improve pedestrian safety.

Interstate 35 sees nearly 110,000 vehicles daily passing through Burnsville and Lakeville, including heavy commercial vehicles and express buses. Traffic is expected to grow to 137,000 vehicles daily by 2046.

Capacity on I-35 is constrained by the existing bridge over County Road 50. This creates a bottleneck that leads to rear-end crashes and congestion.

Safety is a concern along the I-35 corridor. Between 2012 and 2021, there were 484 crashes at the County Road 50 interchange, nearly four times the critical crash rate.

The interchange bridges also impede safety and mobility of vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists on County Road 50 in Lakeville, one of the state's fastest-growing cities. County Road 50 doesn't have enough lanes for current and future traffic, and there is no trail on one side. Fixing these problems requires replacing the I-35 bridges over County Road 50.

Dakota County and the City of Lakeville have been working to replace the interchange since 2004. The city has already invested more than \$20 million in local road improvements and right-of-way for the project.



COUNTY ROAD WORK DEPENDENT ON INTERSTATE IMPROVEMENTS

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) completed the I-35 Burnsville to Lakeville corridor study with state funding. In 2028, MnDOT plans to resurface the highway and repair and replace several bridges in the area. However, MnDOT doesn't plan to fix the traffic capacity and safety problems at County Road 50 without more funding.

State funding in 2025 would allow Dakota County and MnDOT to begin construction at I-35 and County Road 50.

Improvements to I-35 would include:

- Replacing the two interchange bridges over County Road 50 that have reached the end of their service life. They would be replaced with new bridges that can carry three lanes in each direction on I-35 when future interstate improvements are made.
- New auxiliary lanes north of County Road 50 to alleviate the current bottleneck on I-35.
- Reconstructed freeway ramps connecting I-35 and County Road 50.

Construction funding

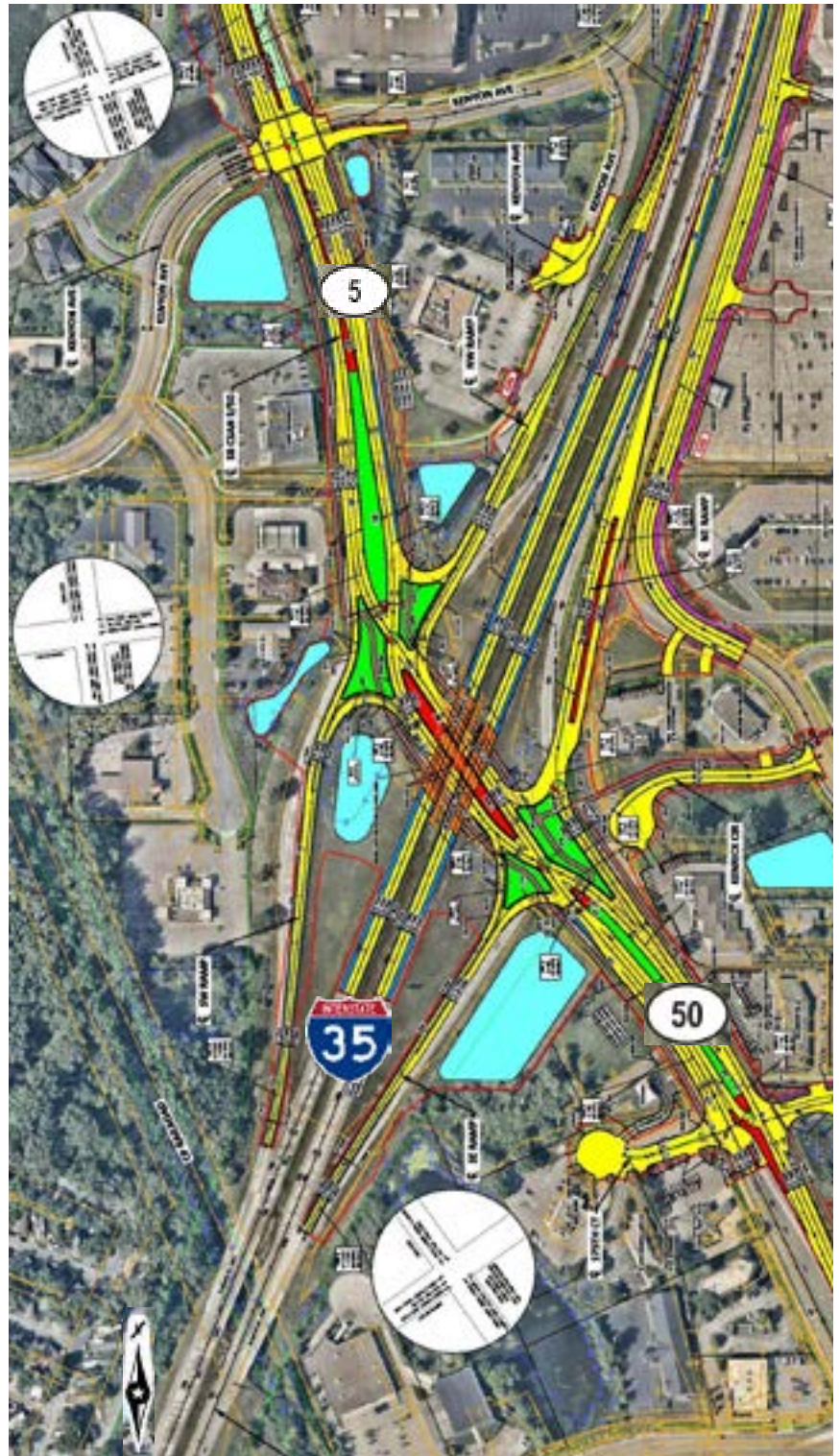
State bonding request	\$51.6 million
• State (I-35 bridges, auxiliary lanes, interchange ramps)	\$40.8 million
• County (County Road 50 improvements)	\$10.8 million
County match	\$10.9 million
Previous state and federal funds	\$5.04 million
Total cost	\$62.5 million

Continued

Reconstruction of the I-35/County Road 50 interchange would include:

- A fourth lane on County Road 50 under the I-35 bridges. Currently, there are three lanes total — two eastbound, one westbound.
- Increased vertical clearance under the I-35 bridges to improve freight mobility.
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections along County Road 50 under I-35.

Dakota County has proposed a diverging diamond interchange design for improvements at County Road 50/Interstate 35 in Lakeville. The design includes a new I-35 auxiliary lane extending 4,500 feet north of County Road 50.



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