

# Dakota County 2023 County Road 46 Safety and Mobility Improvements



HF 2854 Huot; SF 2762 Maye Quade

V3-2023

County Road 46 is a two-lane roadway that carries 11,000-15,100 vehicles daily with a higher volume of truck traffic. The east-west corridor runs through Empire, Rosemount, Farmington, Apple Valley and Lakeville. Traffic volume along County Road 46 is approaching levels best accommodated by a divided four-lane roadway to maintain the safety of all users.

County Road 46 is a minor arterial highway that supplements County Road 42, a principal arterial highway. It provides for east-west travel across Dakota County in the absence of any east-west state trunk highways. County Road 46 is a critical connection to the regional highway system, including Interstate 35, Highway 52 and Highway 61. Communities along County Road 46 continue to see population and economic growth. The roadway is an essential part of a safe and efficient regional transportation network.

There are large gravel mines located along this corridor, and these mining operations will continue for decades. Truck volumes will continue to grow as the mining operations expand along with other commerce. On any given day between April to early November, as many as 825 gravel and concrete trucks enter heavy traffic on County Road 46. Up to 75 percent of these trucks will need to make a left turn onto County Road 46 to access nearby Highway 52. These large trucks do not have the ability to accelerate quickly, creating conflicts with other vehicles. The proposed roadway expansion from two to four lanes, along with the addition of turn lanes, will enhance safety by allowing for better gaps in traffic for vehicles

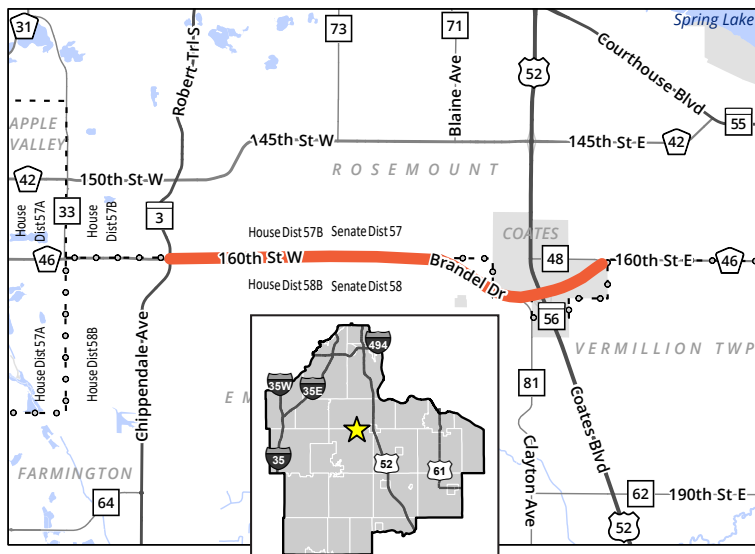
entering or exiting County Road 46, including the gravel and concrete trucks. The additional lane in each direction allows vehicles to safely navigate around slower-moving traffic. Currently, vehicles are forced to slow to speeds well below the posted speed limit.

**The issue:** Safety and mobility are increasingly challenged along County Road 46. The two-lane roadway is an important east-west connection in the county. Population growth, truck activity and overall traffic volume warrant a divided four-lane roadway and other improvements to maintain safety, mobility and regional freight connection.

**The solution:** Reconstruction of County Road 46 from two to four lanes from Highway 3 to the Highway 52 interchange and the addition of turn lanes and other traffic improvements. Preliminary design work is underway. Construction could occur as soon as fall 2026 if funding is received.

## Project funding

State bonding request	\$21.4 million
Matching funds	\$21.4 million
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$42.8 million</b>



- █ Project Area
- State Senate District Boundary
- State House District Boundary

## Contact

### Georg Fischer

Physical Development Director  
Georg.Fischer@co.dakota.mn.us 952-891-7007

### Matt Smith

County Manager  
Matt.Smith@co.dakota.mn.us 651-438-4528