

## Nicollet Avenue bridge rehabilitation project

### Questions & Answers

The information in this document is correct as of the date at the bottom of this page. Construction is a dynamic activity and conditions will change as the project progresses. Also, the City carefully considers all feedback. Where we are able, we will make adjustments as we are able to minimize impacts.

### Traffic and Detours

A detailed [detour map](#) is available on our webpage.

- **Will local roads near the project remain open, or will there be closures?**

Local access will be maintained for homes and businesses. Nicollet Avenue and the bridge will close starting March 2. Eastbound and Westbound Parkways under the bridge will be closed for the entire project.

- **Will Stevens Avenue only allow eastbound traffic during construction?**

Yes, Stevens to the bridge will only allow eastbound traffic, with local access for homes in that segment. Stevens Avenue will allow northbound and southbound traffic similar to what it allows today.

- **Will the parkway under Nicollet Avenue be closed to westbound traffic for the entire project?**

Yes, the westbound Parkway will be closed under the bridge for the entire project.

- **Will construction trucks use Valleyview Place or other recently repaved streets?**

No, trucks will not use Valley View Place. Truck routes will be limited to Nicollet Avenue, 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Belmont Avenue, Minnehaha Parkway and Stevens Avenue (south of Minnehaha Parkway).

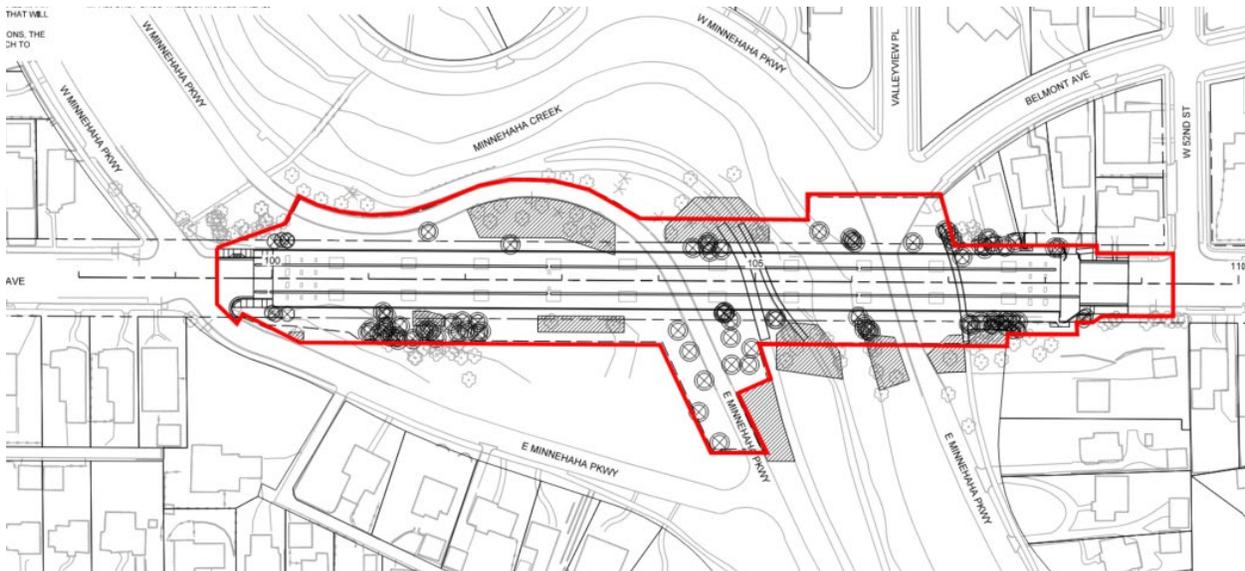
Who should I contact if unexpected traffic issues arise during the project?

You can reach out to the contacts listed on our [project webpage](#). We also host weekly meetings where you can share feedback. Where we can, we will work with the community to minimize impacts.

## Parking

- **Will construction crews park exclusively in the project area or on the north side of the bridge?**

Yes, construction crews will be directed to park within the project limits (see the red outline in the graphic below). We will discourage construction crews from parking on the south side along Nicollet.



- **Will the off-shoot Minnehaha Parkway be available for driving and parking?**

Minnehaha Parkway “off-shoot” will be a one-way eastbound for vehicular traffic. Parking will not be allowed. “No parking” signs will be placed along this segment of roadway.

## Bike & Pedestrian Access

- **What will the bike detour routes be for those heading north or south on Nicollet during construction?**

Those walking and biking north and south on Nicollet will be routed along Luverne Ave and Minnehaha Parkway. A detailed [detour map](#) is available on our webpage.

- **Will trails along the creek be closed and rerouted during the project? If so, what is the detour route?**

The trails under the bridge will stay open, but we may shift them temporarily. If short closures are needed for safety, we'll guide you to detours up to Nicollet and back down. We'll do everything we can to minimize disruption for you.

- **Will stairs on the northeast and southwest sides remain open during construction?**

The southwest stairs will stay open for you. The northeast stairs will need to be removed during construction, and we'll share updates when that happens.

## Environmental Protection

- **What steps are being taken to protect the creek and its banks during construction?**

We care about protecting the creek. We'll use erosion control measures and install a platform over the creek to catch debris during demolition so nothing falls into the water.

- **Will the project impact water quality in the creek?**

No, we don't anticipate any impact on water quality. We'll follow strict measures to keep materials out of the creek and protect this natural resource for you and the community.

- **What is the plan for tree removal and replanting after construction? Will all trees in the marked area be removed?**

We'll only remove trees that are necessary for equipment access. Protected areas will be fenced. For every tree removed, we'll plant two new ones. We're working closely with the Park Board to make sure the replanting meets community needs.

## Design & Aesthetic Features

- **What decorative features are planned for the bridge, such as lighting or railings?**

We're bringing back the original 1923-style railings and updating the lighting with new posts and fixtures that match what you see today. We're also restoring the curved shape of the floor beams for a subtle historic touch.

- **How is the project coordinating with the Park Board on landscaping and improvements under the bridge?**

We've worked closely with the Park Board on tree species and planting plans. The current project does not include work that would change the creek bank or add additional landscaping beyond the trees.

- **Can you explain the design details at the east end of the project area?**

The grid pattern on the plans (Slide 16, titled "Tree removal/Tree protection" in the [pre-construction open house presentation](#)) shows where we'll mill and overlay pavement at the intersection of Minnehaha Parkway, Valley View, and Belmont to give you a smooth roadway finish when we're done.

- **Will the stairs on the south side of the bridge be replaced/repared?**

No. The stairs on the south side of the bridge will remain in place as they are.

## Construction Schedule & Logistics

- **When is demolition expected to be completed, and when will construction begin?**

We anticipate the bridge demolition to finish by mid-June 2026. After that, we'll start repairing arches and piers, then rebuild columns, beams, and the deck. We'll keep you updated every step of the way.

- **Will construction occur only on weekdays, and will the parkway reopen on weekends?**

Most work will happen on weekdays, but sometimes we may need to work Saturdays with permits. Because of that, the Parkway won't reopen on weekends. We'll let you know if schedules change.

- **Will intersections near the project area be repaved after construction?**

Yes, we'll repave intersections like Minnehaha, Belmont, and Valley View so you have smooth roads when the project is complete.

- **What efforts will be made to reduce noise and dust during construction?**

We'll spray water to keep dust down and limit noisy work to approved hours. Heavy construction will still be loud, but we'll do everything we can to reduce the impact on you.

- **What measures are in place to address potential damage from heavy construction vehicles, such as broken water mains?**

Before we start, we survey roads and infrastructure so we know their condition. We'll monitor throughout the project and fix any issues that come up. If you notice something, please reach out to us right away.

- **Will the City coordinate with any other construction projects?**

The contractor will be required to coordinate all activities to/from the project site with adjacent construction.

## Communication & Resources

- **Where can I watch a recording of the meeting or presentation?**

We'll post the video on our project webpage within a few days, along with this Q&A. We want you to have easy access to all the information you need.

## Businesses

- **What will the sign at Nicollet Ave and W Diamond Lake Rd say?**

“Road Close to Thru Traffic, Local Access Only,” is a required traffic regulatory sign. In addition, we are adding a 36” x 36” sign panel that says "Business Access Open."

- **Will there be signage naming businesses above on the trail?**

No. The Park Board does not allow this for signage along their trails.

- **Can the City reduce parking times along 54th to offset lost business parking along Minnehaha Parkway?**

The City is currently reviewing parking near the project site. Any changes to parking will consider the needs of residents, businesses, and emergency services. Needs may change over time and the City is committed to balancing all community needs.