

2027 Budget & Capital Improvement Plan Town Hall Meeting

July 29, 2026



A safe transportation network for all



Minnesota
GreenStep Cities



Budget 2027–2028

Council Meeting Calendar



April 14 5-Year Financial Management Plan – Initial Draft Overview

August 17 Chamber Budget Presentation
August 18 Council Town Hall



May Budget entries are submitted from departments. Finance holds initial budget reviews with teams.

September 15 Review budget and levy & 2027 utility rates

September 22 Adopt preliminary budget/levy; adopt final 2027 utility rates



June 9 5-Year CIP/CEP & Presentation of Independent Audit
June 16 Acceptance of 2025 audit

October
Public Information and Engagement of Proposed Budget 2027–2028 & Levy



July 14 “High Level” Budget Summary
July 29 Town Hall Budget Meeting

November 17 Final 2027–2028 Budget and Levy, 5-Year CIP/CEP and 5-Year Financial Plan and Adopt Street Reconstruction Bonds

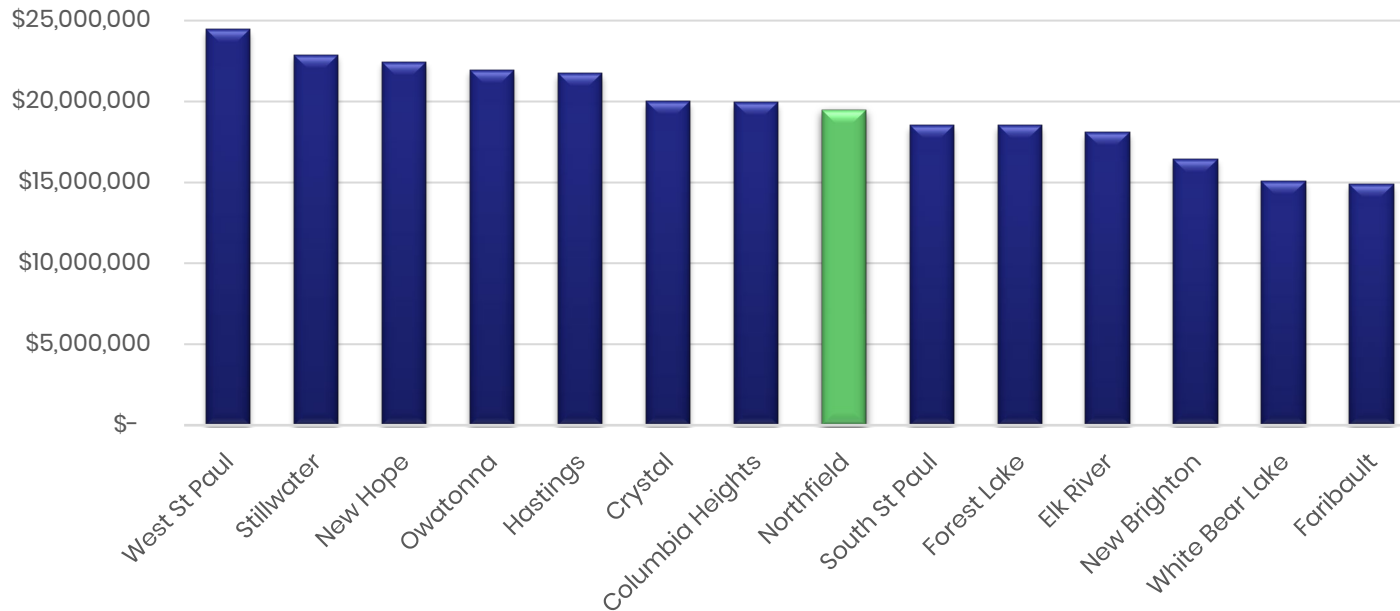
December 1 Public Hearing on Budget & Levy and Public Hearing on 2027 Street Reconstruction Bonds

December 1 Adopt Final 2027–2028 Budget and Levy, 5-Year CIP/CEP and 5-Year Financial Plan and Adopt Street Reconstruction Bonds

Peer Comparison 2026 Current City Property Taxes (i.e. levy)



2026 Total Levy \$



Proposed 2027 property tax option

6.8% levy increase



Property type	Estimated market value	2026 city tax	2027 city tax	Yearly change	Monthly change
Residential homestead	\$200,000	\$1,311.08	\$1,363.46	\$52.39	\$4.37
	\$300,000	\$2,144.60	\$2,230.29	\$85.69	\$7.14
	\$350,000	\$2,561.36	\$2,663.71	\$102.34	\$8.53
	\$500,000	\$3,811.65	\$3,963.95	\$152.30	\$12.69
Commercial/Industrial	\$500,000	\$7,073.48	\$7,356.11	\$282.63	\$23.55
	\$1,000,000	\$14,720.48	\$15,308.66	\$588.18	\$49.02

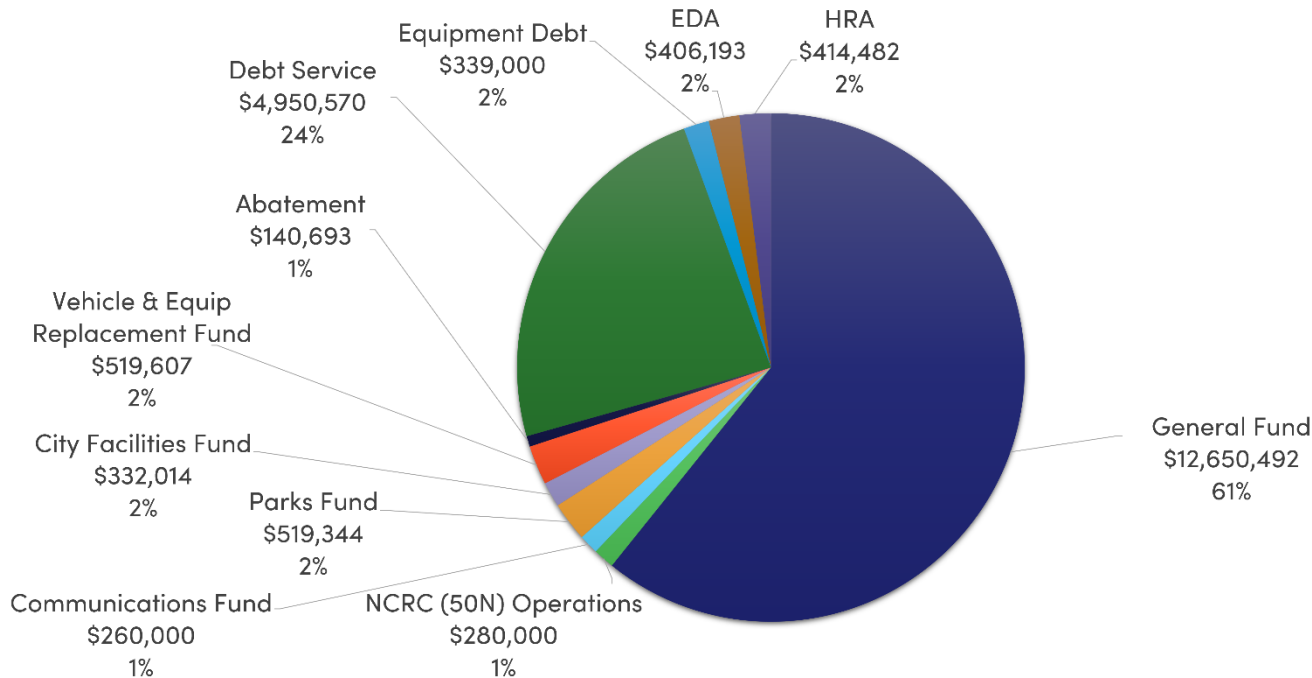
Proposed 2027 property tax option

9.0% levy increase

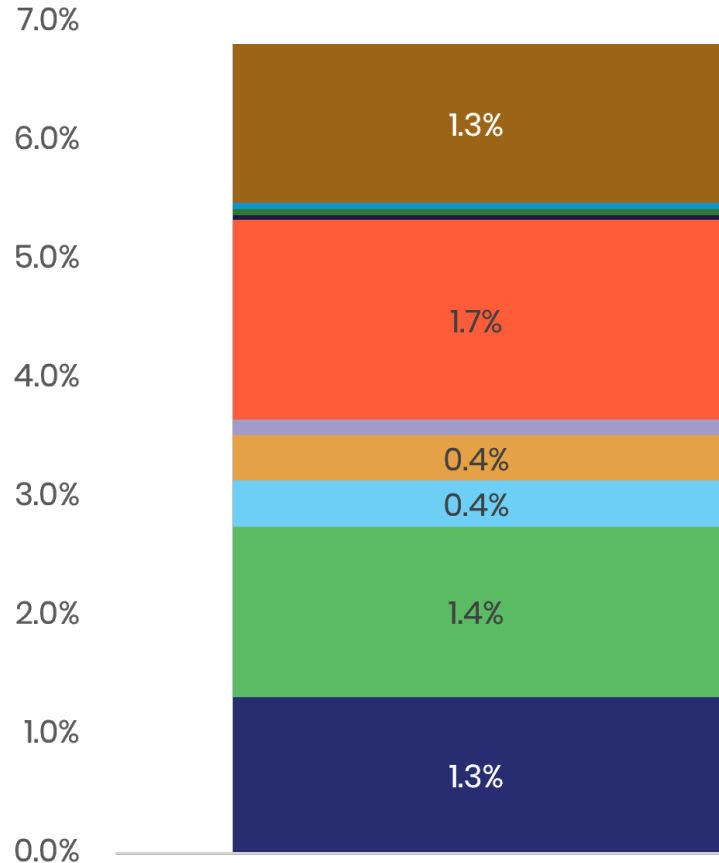


Property type	Estimated market value	2026 city tax	2027 city tax	Yearly change	Monthly change
Residential homestead	\$200,000	\$1,311.08	\$1,391.41	\$80.34	\$6.69
	\$300,000	\$2,144.60	\$2,276.01	\$131.41	\$10.95
	\$350,000	\$2,561.36	\$2,718.31	\$156.95	\$13.08
	\$500,000	\$3,811.65	\$4,045.21	\$233.56	\$19.46
Commercial/Industrial	\$500,000	\$7,073.48	\$7,506.90	\$433.43	\$36.12
	\$1,000,000	\$14,720.48	\$15,622.48	\$902.00	\$75.17

2027 Preliminary Citywide Levy

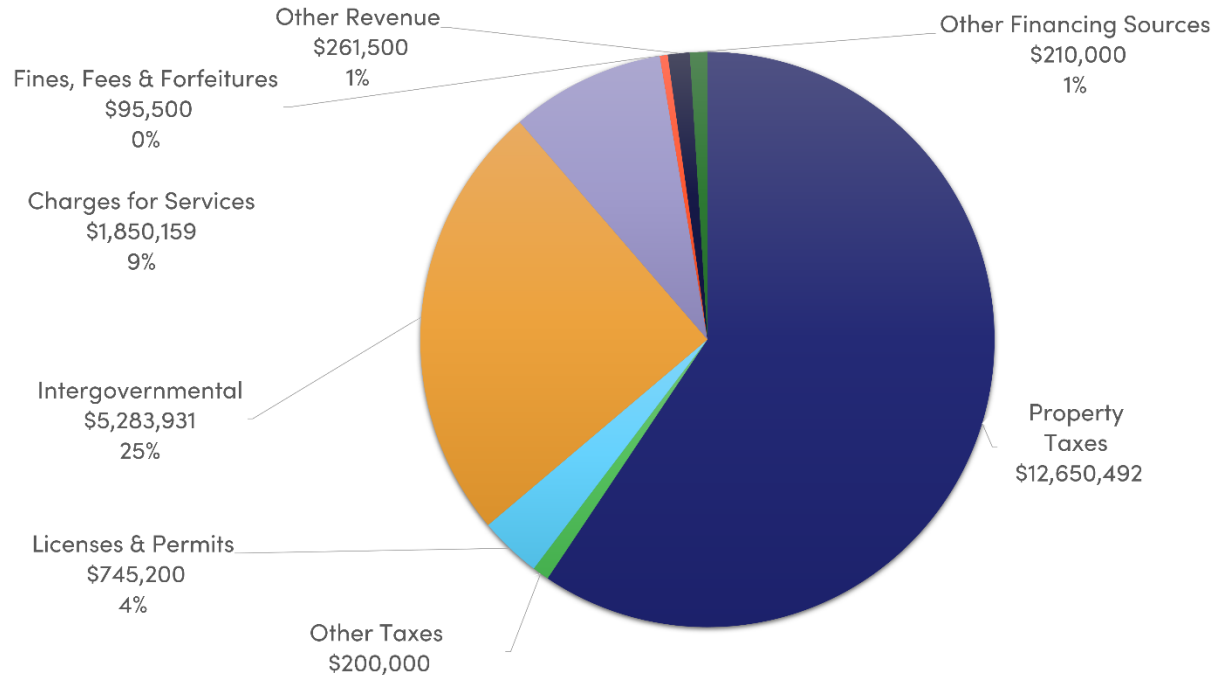


Proposed 2027 Levy Increase

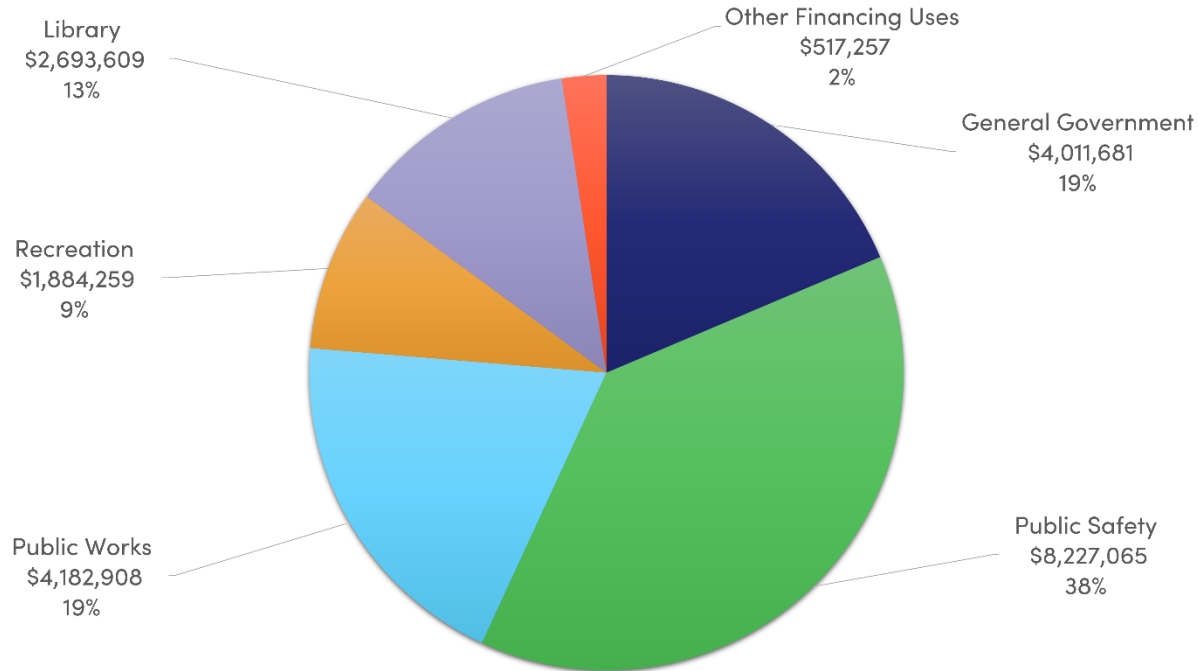


Fund type	% change	\$ change
Debt	1.3%	\$255,639
50North	1.4%	\$280,000
Parks	0.4%	\$75,000
Facilities	0.4%	\$75,000
Vehicles and Equipment	0.1%	\$24,743
General	1.7%	\$327,864
Abatement	0.0%	\$7,876
EDA	0.1%	\$10,345
HRA	0.1%	\$10,556
Communications	1.3%	\$260,000
Total	6.8%	\$1,327,023

General Fund Revenue



General Fund Expense



City Services



General government



- Administrative services
- Business development
- Housing
- Elections
- Permits

Culture & Recreation



- Library
- Parks, ice rink and pool
- FiftyNorth senior center
- Recreation

Public Safety



- Police
- Fire and Rescue
- Emergency management
- Building inspections

Public Works



- Street repair and construction
- Snow plowing
- Drinking, storm and waste-water
- Garbage, recycling and yard waste
- City buildings

Pictured: Bridging Communities: a Celebration of Somali Culture, Nov 2025



In a recent citywide survey, residents expressed strong support for the library, with 89% reporting satisfaction with the overall quality of public library services.

Pictured: Staff engaging youth and families in storytime, 2026

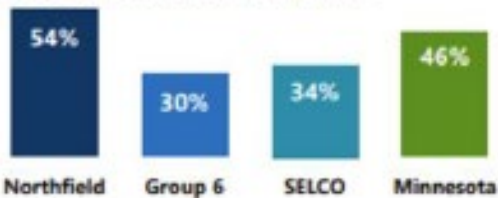


In 2023, the library opened full-service a satellite location in the Northfield Community Resource Center. The Library Oasis provides convenient 24-hour access to holds pickup, reference, programs, collections, computers and other services.

Pictured: Bookmobile and library mascot "Sparkles" with a family at a Dundas Dukes game, 2024



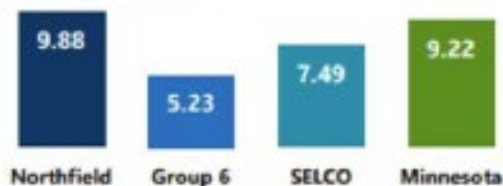
% Population w/Library Cards



Library Visits per Capita



Circulation per Capita



Data source: Minnesota Public Library Annual Report, collected and maintained by State Library Services in the Minnesota Department of Education.

Pictured: Staff presenting our community cookbook to colleagues at American Library Association annual conference, 2026

43



Relationships to Recipes: Preserving the Stories of Our Latino Community Through a Collaborative Cookbook



AT-A-GLANCE

Location: Northfield, MN
Partners: Northfield Public Library, Southeastern Libraries Cooperating, Friends of the Library, community members
Timeline: 2024-2025
Goal: use food as a storytelling tool for immigrant and Latino communities



SECURING FUNDING

What grant funding might be available for you?
seaco
Community Reads Grant

How can we expand upon the Midwestern community cookbook tradition to celebrate our Latino community?



18 recipe contributors

13.2% Latino population

32 attendees at the launch party

12 countries represented



MAKING IT HAPPEN

- choosing our photographer
- getting the word out
- ensuring community buy-in

ANGELICA LINDER, OUTREACH SERVICES MANAGER
ALEXUS KREFT, ADULT OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING LIBRARIAN



OUTCOMES

- programming opportunities
- fostering pride and belonging
- historical preservation
- community building
- cross-cultural engagement

Best Small Library in America 2024

Honorable Mention

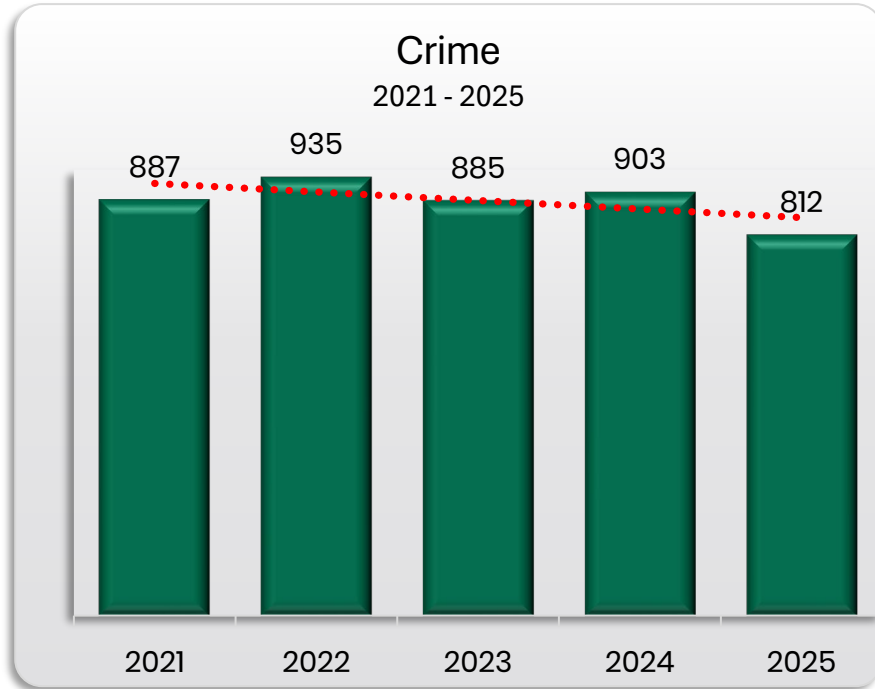


MOVER & SHAKER





Crime



- 10% decrease from 2024
- 8.4% decrease from 2021
- Slight decreasing 5-year trend

Noteworthy – March 16th

Conversation, Cops & Coffee



FiftyNorth hosted the Police Department for our first-ever Conversation, Cops, and Coffee / Coffee with a Cop event. Officer Murphy, Sergeants Kramer and Jandro, Deputy Chief Haider and Chief Schroeffer enjoyed the company on that wintery day!





Northfield Police Mentorship Program

Connecting youth and
law enforcement for a
stronger community

Maintaining Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



9

Water facilities



156

Lanes miles of roads



58

Storm ponds



230

Miles of pipes



120

Miles of trails and sidewalks



150

Pieces of large equipment



1

Swimming pool



35

Parks



13,530

Trees



1

Ice arena



21

Playgrounds



8

Buildings

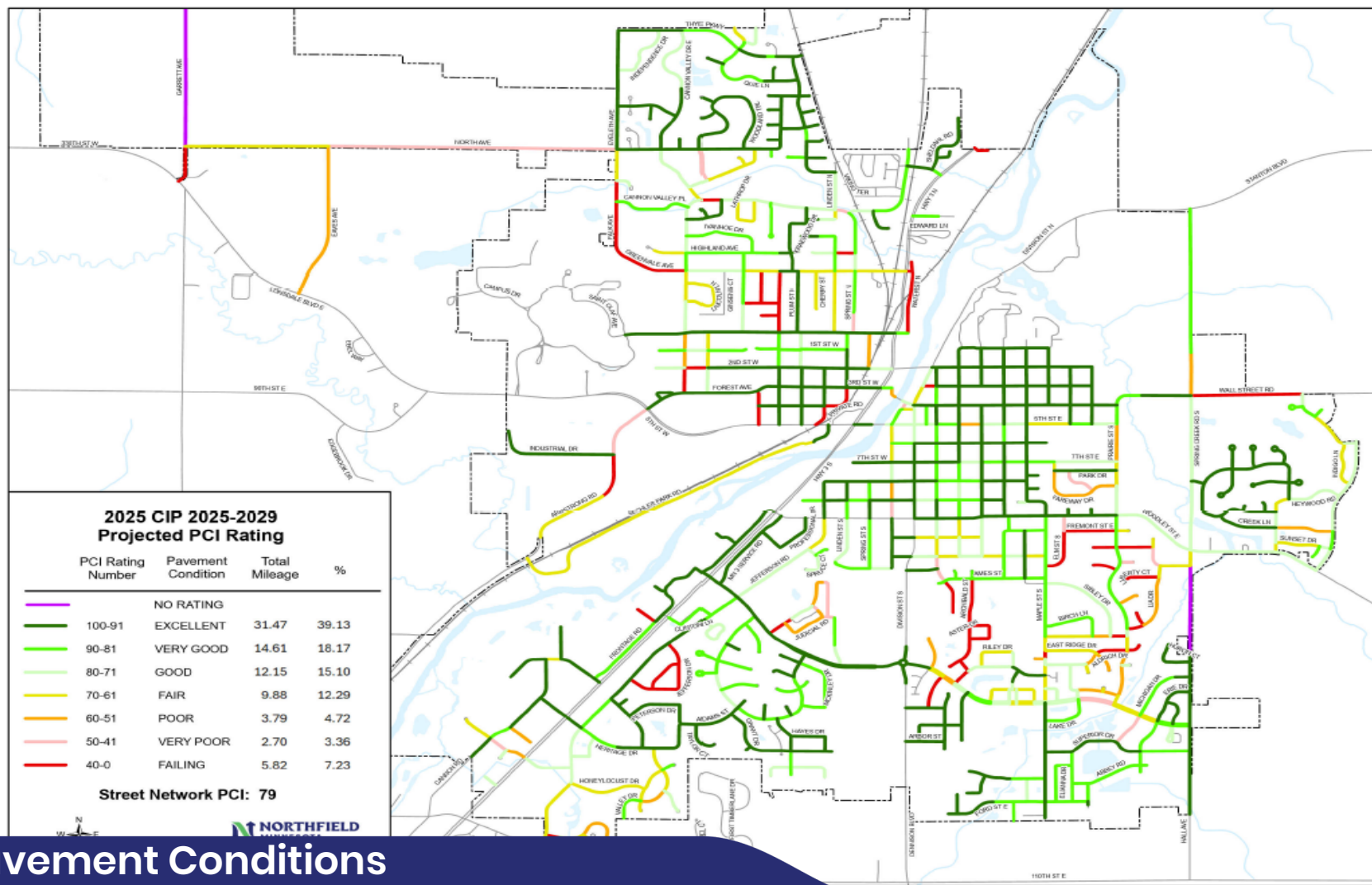
Maintaining Streets



- City surveys $\frac{1}{4}$ of City Street Annually for Pavement Condition
- Streets Rated 100 brand new & below 50 Condition need reconstruction

Year	Overall Network Pavement Condition Rating
2025	79
2024	79
2023	78
2022	78
2021	76

- 89% of Roadway in good condition
- 11% of Roadway has streets in poor condition



Pavement Conditions

Difference is options: staffing



Public Works

- 0.4% mechanic (1)
- 0.8% operator (2)



Police

- 1.0% lieutenant (1)



Comparable Organizations

City	Northfield	Stillwater	Faribault	Owatonna	Farmington	Willmar	Albert Lea	Average of Comparisons
Population	20,790	19,394	24,453	26,420	23,632	21,015	18,016	22,155
Total Number of Employees	114	114	207	166	98	118	138.67	140.28
Streets and/or Maintenance FTE	6	9	12	19	11	4.6	12.54	11.36
Parks FTE	6	9	9	18.2	10	21.7	9.5	12.91
Total	12	18	21	31.2	21	26.3	22.08	23.10

- Northfield has ½ the staff compared to other similar cities in streets and parks

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Lieutenant

1. Current supervisory capacity stretched thin
2. Command staff are performing operational management duties
3. The Department has outgrown its current structure.





Strengths

Profitable since 1948

\$3.3 million

in the last 14 years



Profits go to the city's General Fund
to lower property taxes

Proposed utility rates



- **Sample bill for an average home**
 - Based on 589 cubic feet of water on a 0.33 acre lot.

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Water	\$25.97	\$28.31	\$30.85	\$33.63	\$36.66	\$39.96	\$41.16
Sewer	\$41.74	\$42.99	\$44.28	\$44.28	\$45.61	\$46.98	\$49.84
Garbage	\$12.55	\$13.30	\$13.77	\$14.25	\$14.75	\$15.27	\$15.80
Storm water	\$11.41	\$11.98	\$12.58	\$12.83	\$13.09	\$13.35	\$13.62
Total	\$91.67	\$96.58	\$101.49	\$106.32	\$111.47	\$116.96	\$120.41
% change	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	3%

Utility projects



Water refill station



NW area water tower



Water meter replacement



Pond dredging



Questions



WELCOME

Budget and Capital Improvement Plan Town Hall



A safe transportation network for all

Overview: what to expect



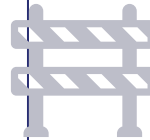
Why Safe
Transportation
Network for All?



Understanding the
network



Your influence



2027-2031 projects

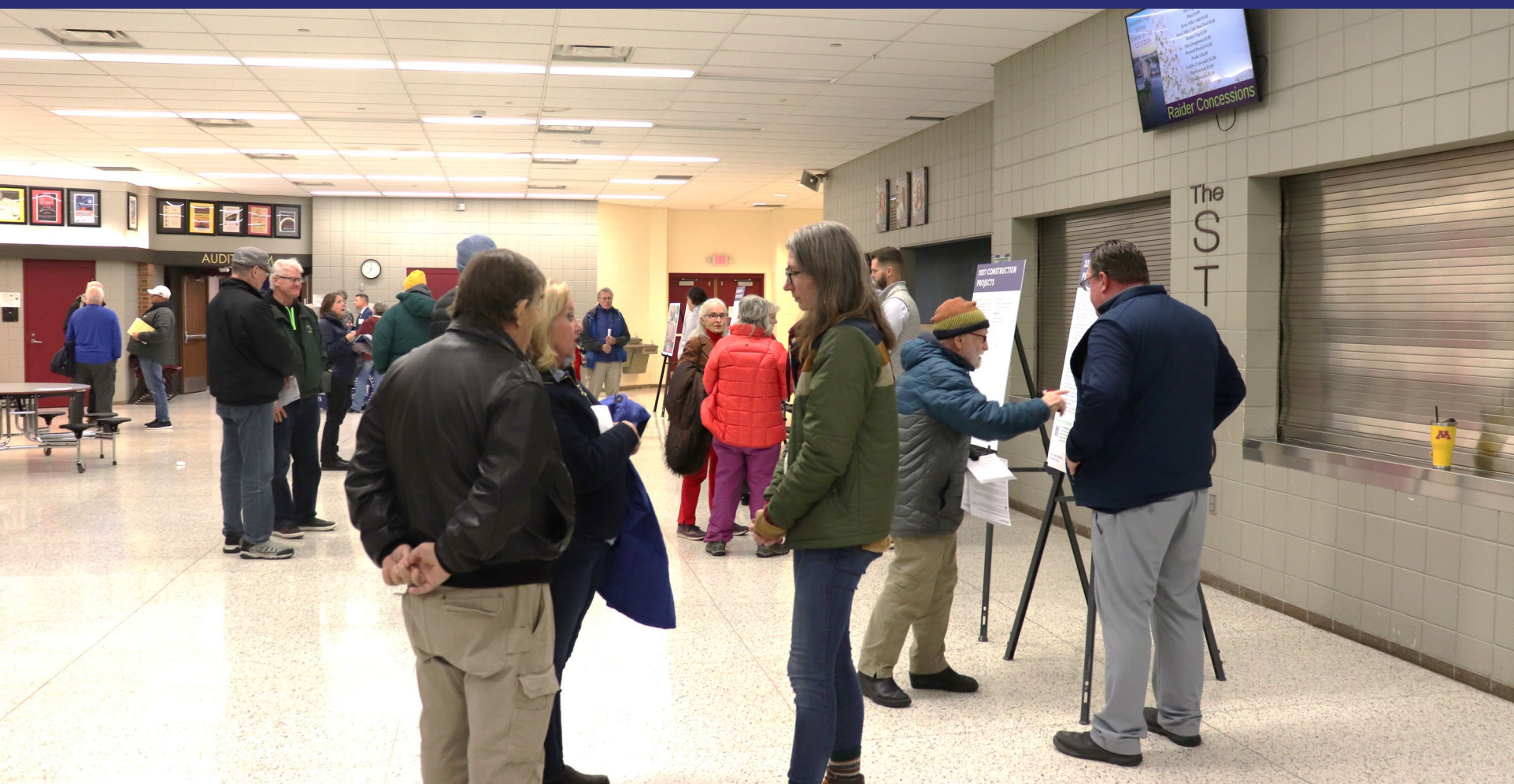


How decisions are
made



Questions and
answers

Specific questions and clarifications in the cafeteria.



Minnesota Serious & Fatal Crashes

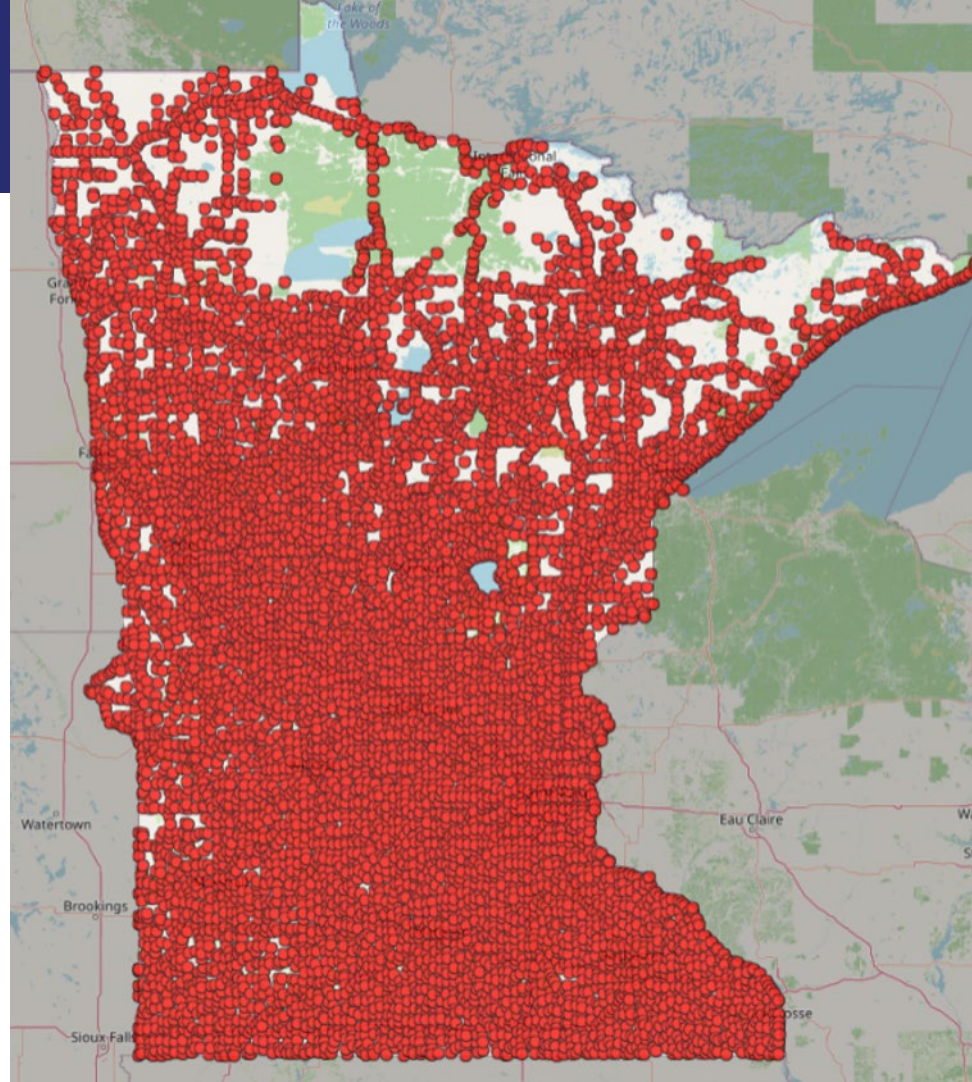
2016–2025

712,452 crashes

19,107 lives lost or changed

677 more serious and fatal
injury crashes from last
year.

↑ trend



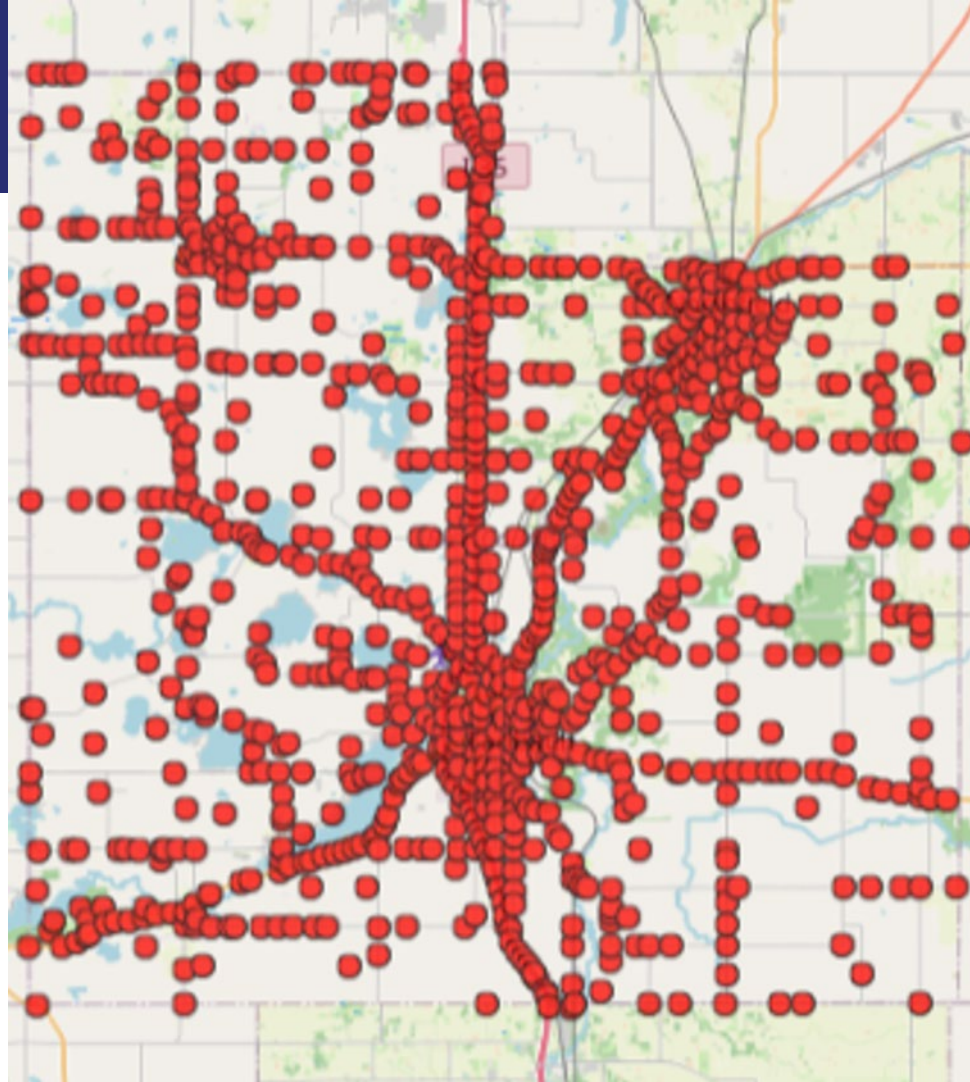
Rice County Serious & Fatal Crashes

2016–2025

7,773 crashes

263 serious & fatal

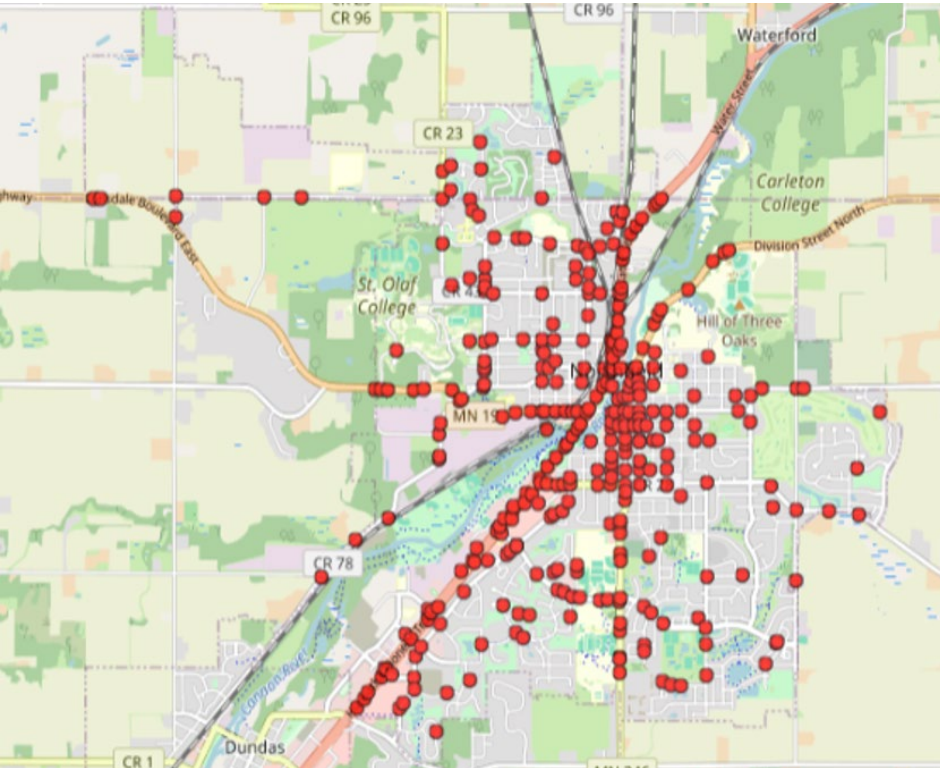
↑ trend



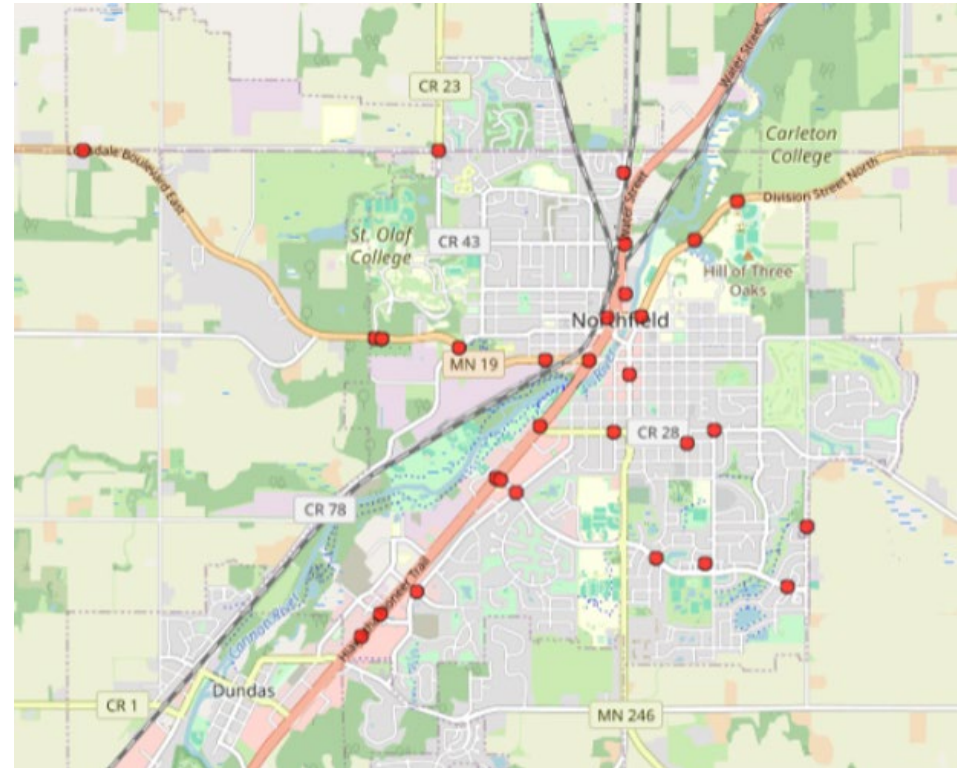
Northfield 2016–2025

911 crashes, 31 series & fatal crashes

All crashes



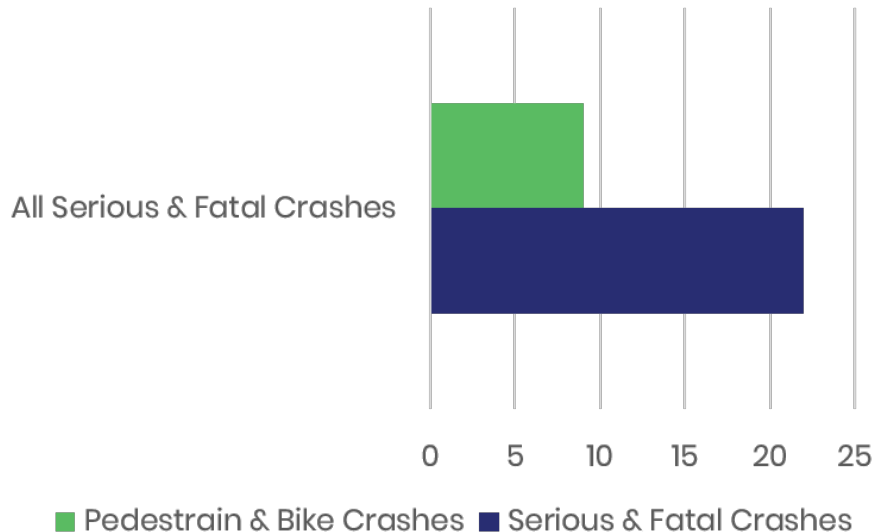
Serious & fatal crashes



Northfield 2016–2025

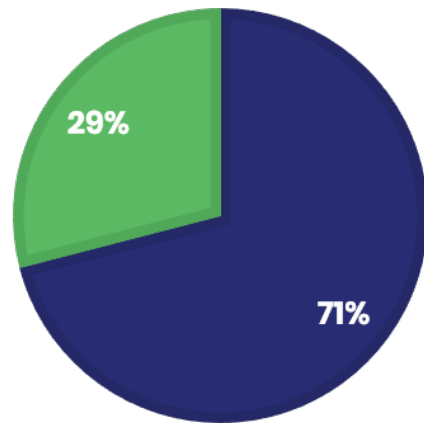
31 series & fatal crashes, 9 involve pedestrian or bike

Northfield Crash Data



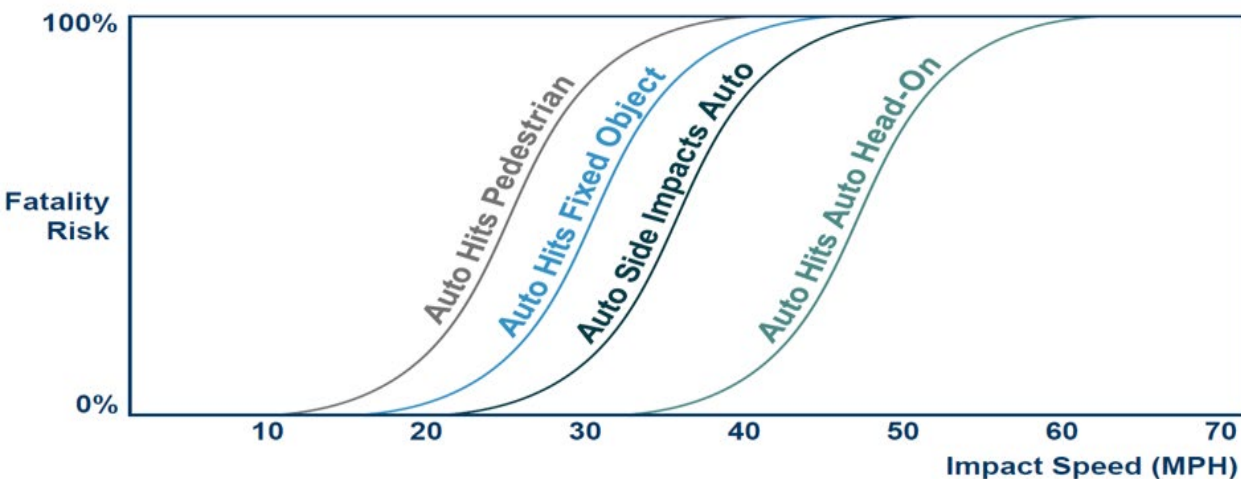
SERIOUS & FATAL CRASH DATA

■ Motor Vehicle ■ Pedestrian & Bike



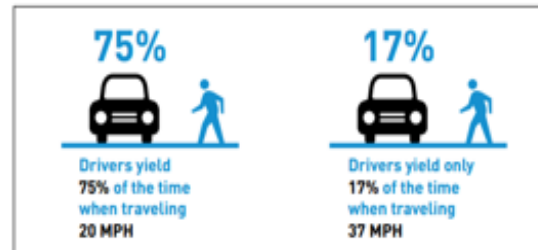
Safe Speeds

Lower speeds means less fatalities



Source: FHWA

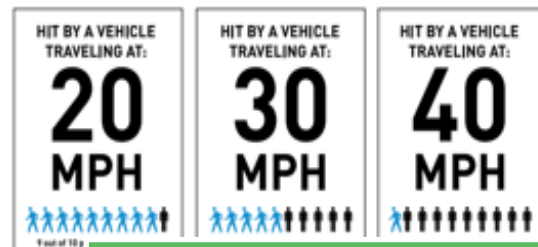
WHY SPEED MATTERS



Field of vision at 15 MPH



Field of vision at 30 to 40 MPH



9 out of 10 pedestrians survive at 20 mph

Safe Transportation Network for All



Creates a balanced, highly interconnected and attractive surface transportation network



Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Plan



Promotes the latest and best “Complete Streets” design for greater community planning and public’s safety

Layering safety

Roadway users
are humans,
humans make
mistakes



Separating bikes from
vehicles



Narrowing/raised
pedestrian crossings



Improved crossing
flasher



Intersection
improvements

PEDALING OUR WAY TO A MORE ACTIVE FUTURE.

Pre-construction bicycle and pedestrian counts were completed in 2023; post-construction counts were collected in October 2023 and 2024.

Heritage Dr has had up to **9x** more activity with an off-street bikeway.

Roosevelt Dr has had up to **4x** more activity with the cycle track.

Nevada St has had over **7x** more biking activity.

Maple St (north of Ames St) has had **10x** more biking activity.

Maple St (south of Birch Ln) has had **4x** more biking activity.



Off-street bikeway along Heritage Dr



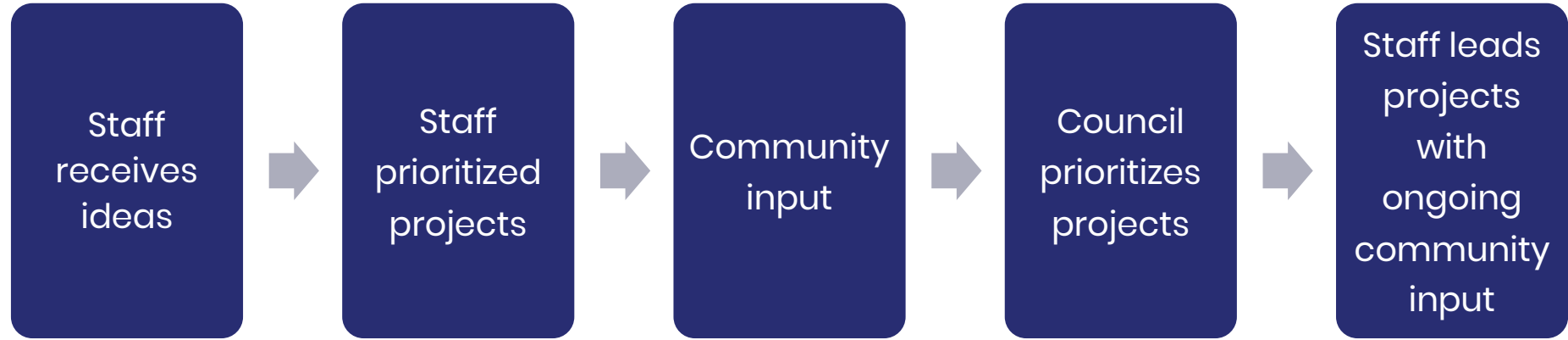
On-street cycle track along Maple St



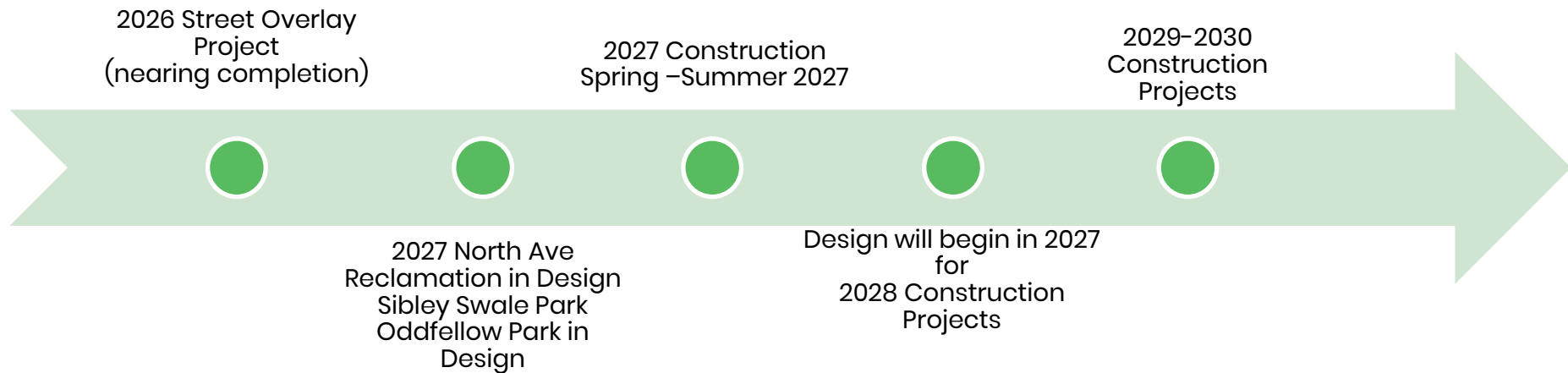
2027 – 2031

**Transportation Network &
Park Improvements**

How are decisions made in transportation planning?



Timeline



Timeline

Major Influence

Rapidly Declining Influence

Low Influence

Comprehensive
Plan

Capital
Improvement
Program (CIP)

Budget

Feasibility
Report

Order
Improvement

Final Plans

Construction

2028-2031 Projects

2028-2031 Projects

2027 Projects

2027
Projects

Opportunity for Influence

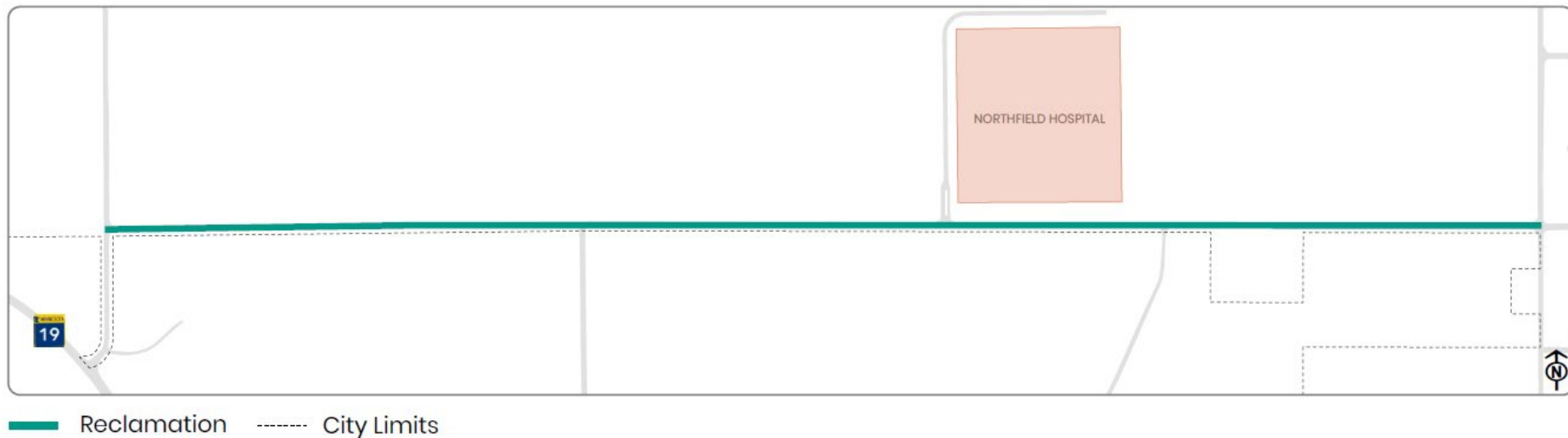
Cost of Changes

www.northfieldmn.gov

2027 North Avenue reclamation and trail repair

Current phase: declining influence

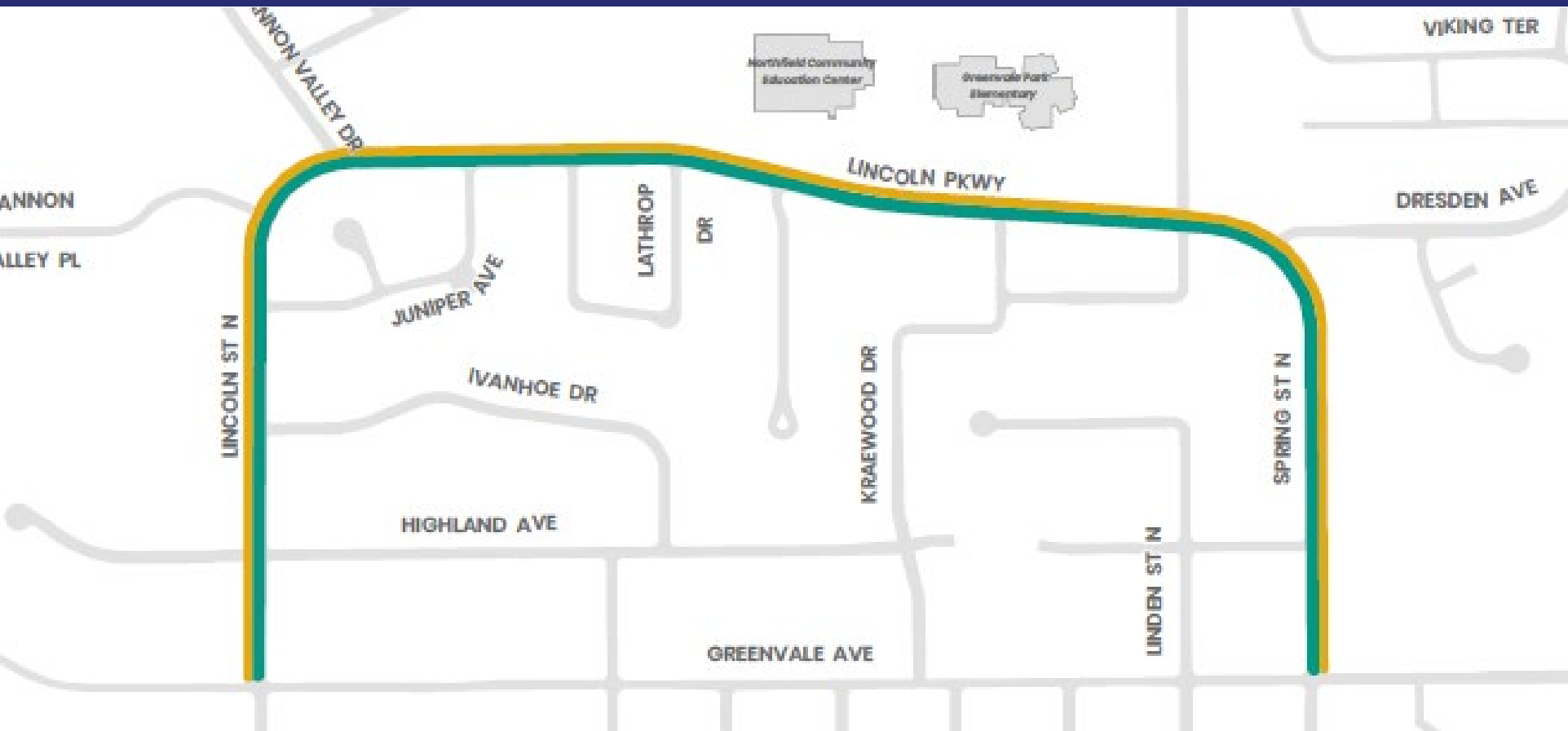
Project map



SAFE TRANSPORTATION
NETWORK FOR ALL

2028 Lincoln Parkway Overlay & Safety Improvement

Current phase: Declining influence

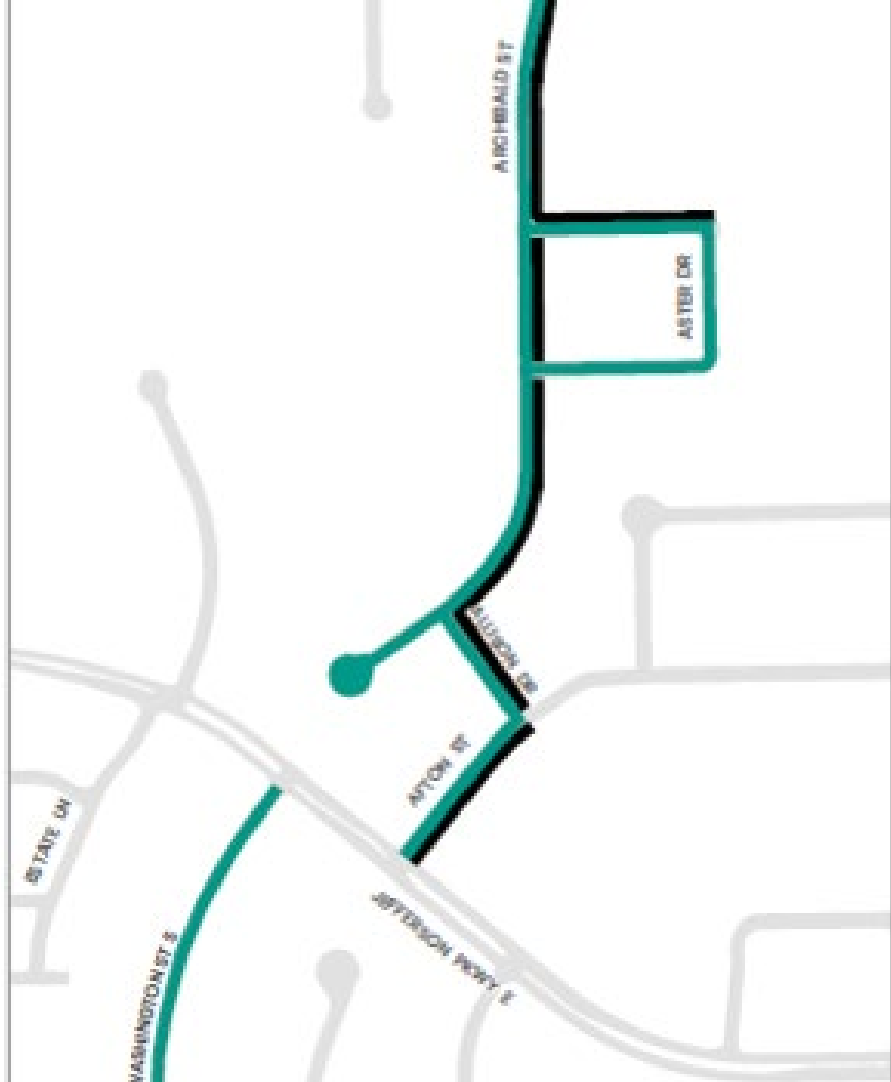


2028 project

Current phase: Major influence

Reclamation & Walking Improvements

- Archibald Street
- Archibald Cout
- Allison Drive
- Afton Street
- Aster Drive
- Washington Street

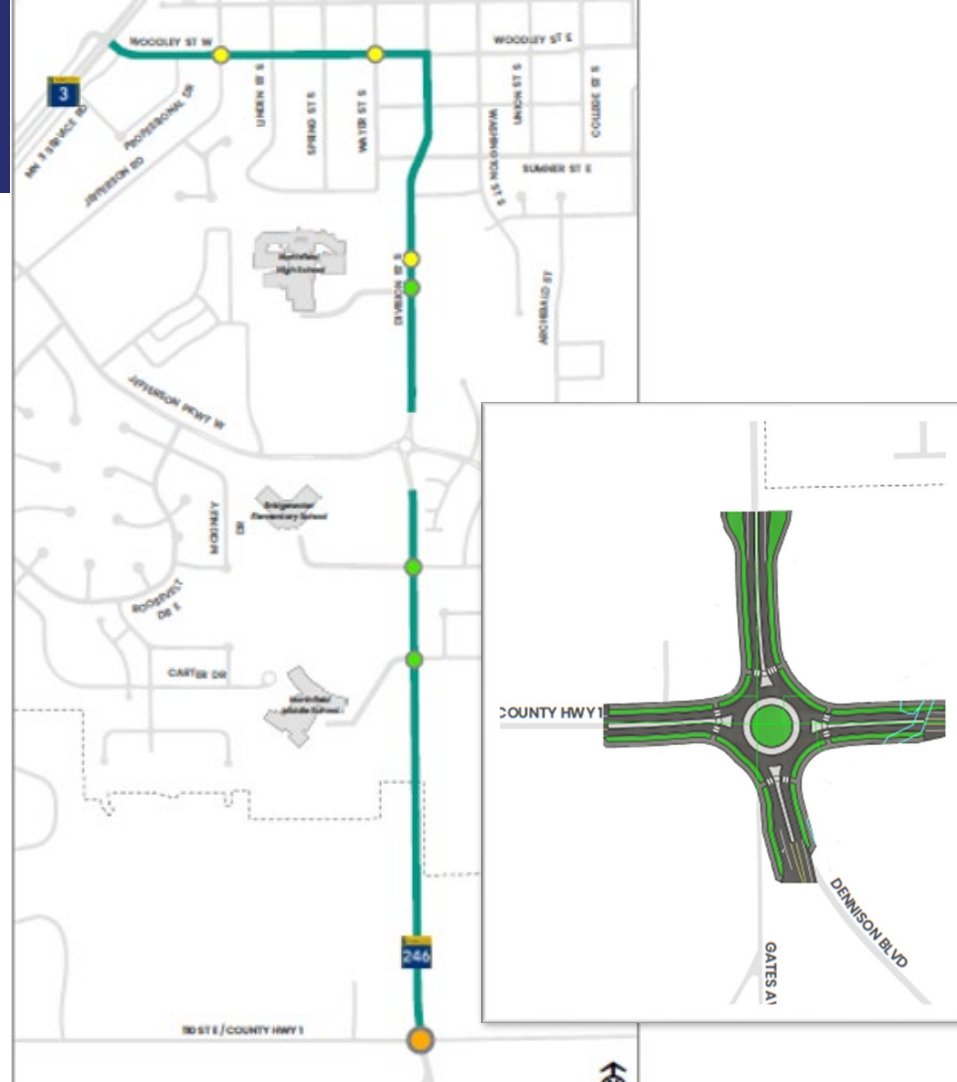


2028–2029

Current phase: Declining influence

Highway 246

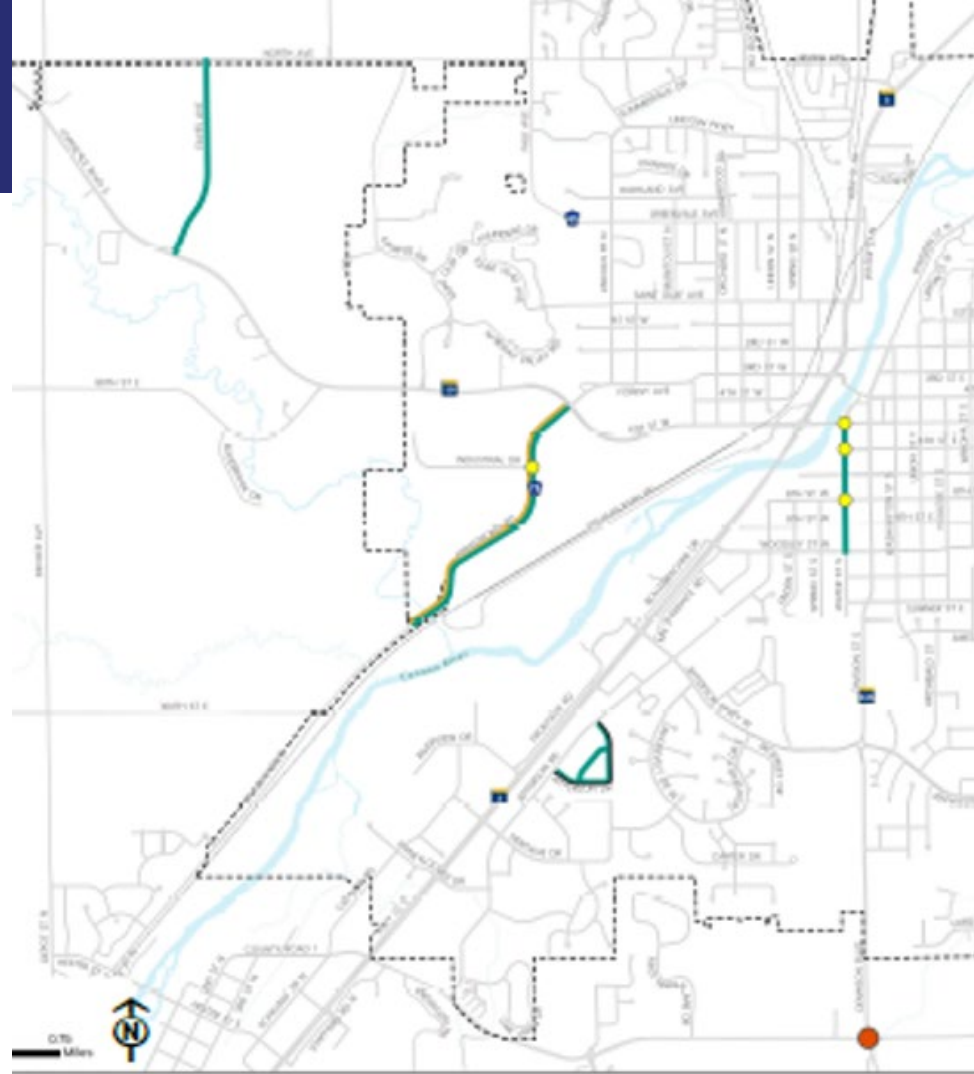
- Reconstruction from high School to Highway 3
 - Includes walking and biking improvements
 - Pedestrian crossing improvement
- Roundabout at County Road 1 & Highway 246
- Mini-roundabouts at school entrances



2029 projects

Current phase: Major influence

- Eaves Avenue Overlay
- County 78/Armstrong Road Reclamation and Reconstruction
- Jefferson Drive & Jefferson Lane Reclamation
- Water Street Overlay and Intersection Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

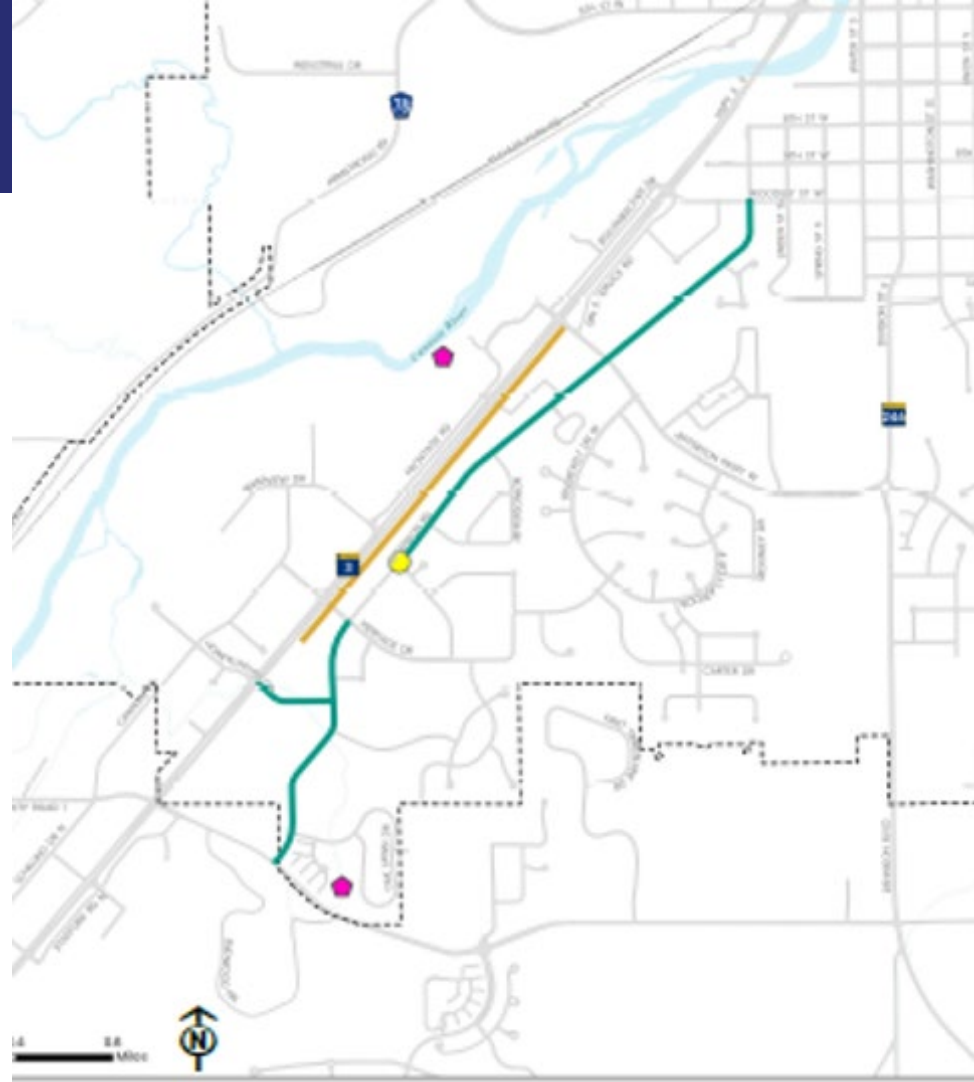


2030 projects

Current phase: Major influence

Overlays

- Jefferson Road
- Honey Locust Drive



2030: Bridge Square

Current phase: Declining influence

- Reconstruction of deteriorated roads and sidewalks
- Improving walkability, seating, shade, and gathering at Bridge Square

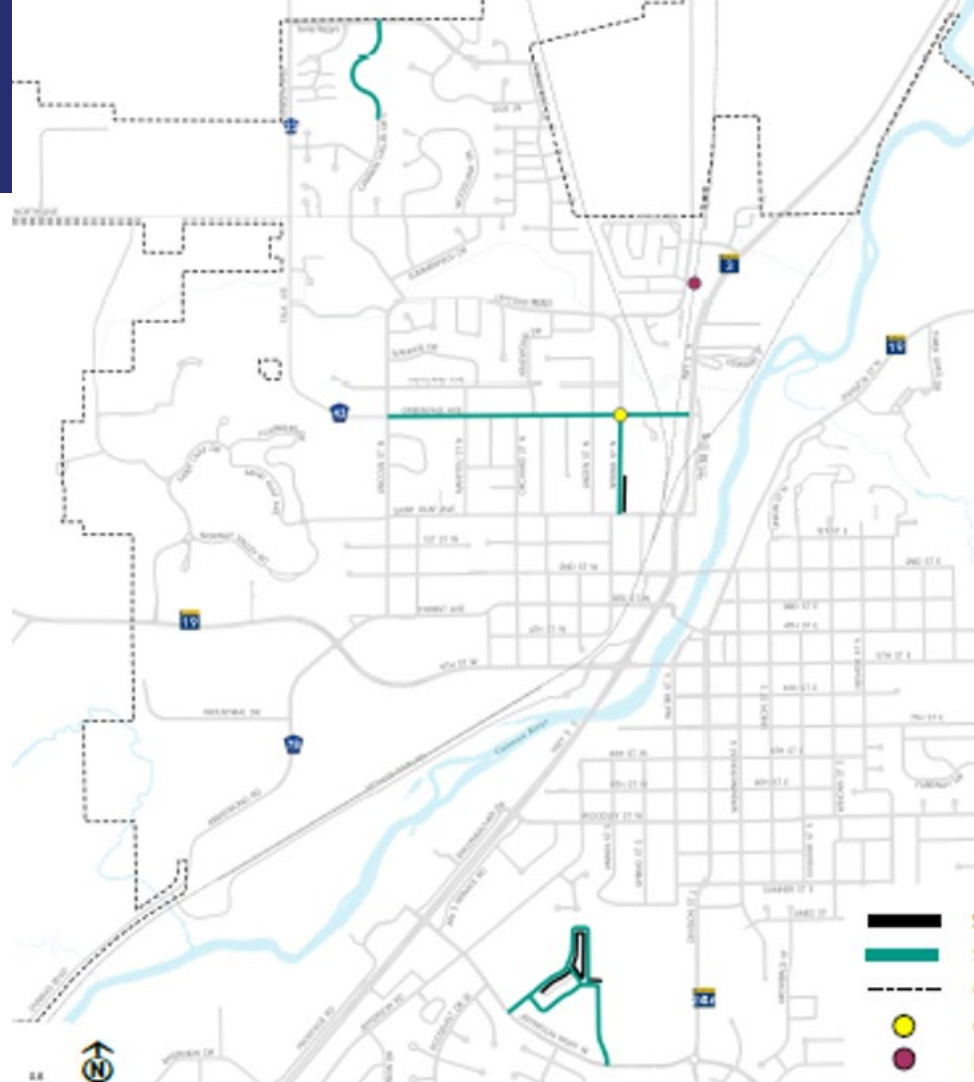


2031 projects

Current phase: Major influence

Overlays

- Greenvale Avenue
- Spring Street
- Cannon Valley Drive
- Judicial Road
- Judicial Way
- Presidential Drive



2027: Sibley Swale Park

Current phase: declining influence



2027: Oddfellows Park

Current phase: Declining influence



2028–2029: Riverside Lions Park

Current phase: Major influence





2029:
Heritage
Park

Current
phase:
Major
influence

Questions



Thank you for attending.

We look forward to your
conversation in the
cafeteria.

