

## MnDOT delays opening new Goose Creek Rest Area

MnDOT will delay the reopening of the Goose Creek rest area located on northbound Interstate 35 near Harris until unfinished components that pose a possible safety risk can be completed. The department had anticipated opening the rest area in late November or early December, but may need to push the reopening into spring due to winter conditions.

The two components not complete are:

- The code-required guardrail atop a 300-foot long, 22-foot tall retaining wall that supports the car parking lot and a pedestrian sidewalk
- An elevated walk overlook that surrounds three sides of the building

MnDOT considered temporarily and safely cordoning off the areas that are not finished and reopening the rest area, but dismissed that option because of its cost and complexity.

It is not unusual for construction to be delayed due to material deliveries, subcontractor availability, project location, unknown conditions encountered during construction, or “the weather.” MnDOT, its consultants and contractor continue to work to complete the project as quickly and safely as possible.



Figure - Rendering of the Goose Creek Rest Area

Thank you for your patience. We believe you will find the reopening worth the wait. This durable, energy efficient and beautiful civic building will welcome visitors to our state and be a source of pride to Minnesotans for decades to come.

Visit [www.dot.state.mn.us/restareas](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/restareas) to keep up on the rest area reopening.

## Project background

### Project need

- **Building** – The physical condition of the rest area building was rated second worst in the state. It was not ADA compliant, not energy efficient, and was functionally and operationally obsolete.
- **Site** – The physical condition of the site was poor. Trails and site furnishings were not ADA compliant. In addition, much of the site trails and other amenities were heavily damaged by a tornado in 2011 and were never replaced or fully repaired.

### Scope of work

#### Phase 1 (completed)

- Replaced a 300-foot long, 20-foot tall, 45-year-old wood timber retaining wall that supports the car parking lot. Replacement of the failing wall required removal and reconstruction of a significant portion of the car parking lot. The site's limited land base forced MnDOT to store excavated material on the truck parking lot, requiring the closure of the rest area during construction.
- Replaced the existing wastewater system.
- Repaired collapsed storm sewer catch basins and storm piping.
- Began mid-April 2017 and completed in mid-August 2017 (four months).
- Cost: \$ 1,316,405.27

#### Phase 2 (currently under construction)

- Replace the existing rest area building and storage building.
- Rehabilitate the picnic shelters and site amenities.
- Expand the truck parking lot to accommodate larger commercial vehicles.
- Began Sept. 14, 2017 with a planned construction completion date of Sept. 30, 2018 (12.5 months). This phase could not overlap with the Phase 1 due to the limited land base as noted earlier.
- Cost: \$ 6,203,000.03 (currently). Construction Change Orders to date total around 5 percent. This is typical for projects.

A typical rest area building reconstruction and site rehabilitation takes at least 12 months, but the wall reconstruction and wastewater system replacement required a longer construction period.