

Frequently Asked Questions

I-94 Monticello to Clearwater project update

Project changes

Q: How is the project changing?

A: Instead of widening I-94 between Monticello and Hasty to the inside (toward the median), it is now proposed that I-94 will be widened to the outside in this area. *(See illustration below)* There will now be cable barrier instead of concrete barrier in the median. The original proposal for I-94 between Hasty and Clearwater remains unchanged. The final roadway will still have three lanes in each direction with a center grass median.

Proximity to Locke Lake

Q: How will a lane fit next to Locke Lake?

A: MnDOT has confirmed that everything fits within the available space. The new lane will be on the existing outside shoulder and a new 10-foot shoulder will go beyond that. There is still space for the required 50-foot clear zone (clear space for safety reasons) and the proposed berms. There will be no additional fill or other impact to Locke Lake.

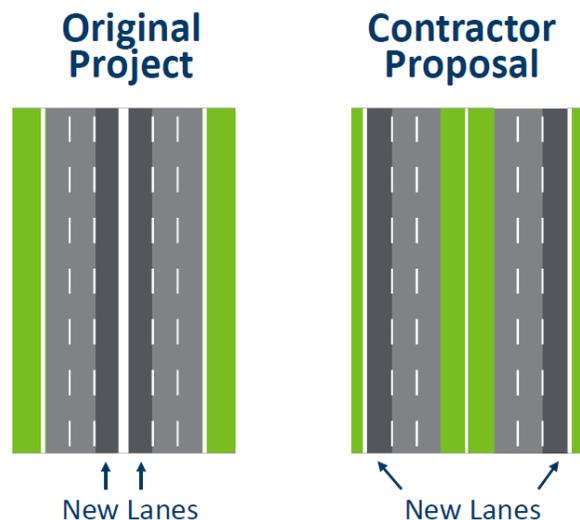
Construction schedule and phasing

Q: Which side will have the third lane first?

A: Permanent widening will first happen on the westbound side, so that will be the first side to have the third lane. Once westbound I-94 is completed, construction on the eastbound will start. No permanent work can be done until the permitting agencies give approval, so this permanent construction will likely start in 2021.

Q: If permanent construction can't start yet, what work is happening now?

A: MnDOT is adding an additional temporary lane on the eastbound side of I-94 so four lanes of traffic can be carried on that side while westbound I-94 is constructed next year. This temporary lane is asphalt, but permanent construction will convert all surface to concrete between Hasty and Monticello.



Noise

Q: Will there be an increase in noise with the proposed changes?

A: For this change to be acceptable, the contractor is required to make sure that noise levels remain the same or lower than noise levels reported in the previous environmental document. To accomplish this, the contractor is proposing to install earthen berms and wood fencing on the south side of I-94 in the Locke Lake and Dalton Avenue areas to keep noise levels within acceptable ranges. The noise wall originally proposed on the north side of I-94 between West River Street and Monticello Country Club is still part of the project.

Q: Where will the berms be placed and how do they reduce noise?

A: Berms and wooden fencing are being placed along the south side of I-94 near the Locke Lake, and also near Dalton Avenue. Without a berm the noise would travel unimpeded to the residence. The height of the berm blocks that noise. The contractor intends to build berms early with material excavated from ditches, so it can be done sooner and would also help with construction noise.

More information

The I-94 Monticello to Clearwater Reevaluation of Environmental Assessment, is available online on the project documents page, at www.mndot.gov/i94-mg-clearwater/