SH–44 WIDENING

SH-16 TO STAR ROAD

General Questions

What improvements will be built?	• Widening to two lanes of travel in each direction with a center turn lane. • Replacing the existing roadway surface. • Adding portions of pedestrian pathway on the south side of State Highway 44 for connectivity for a future pathway project. • Replacing pedestrian ramps to meet ADA requirements.
Why did it take so long to get this final section built?	This section of State Highway 44 is being built to ease traffic congestion through this highway section. The timing of the construction of this project was due to environmental processes needed for the project and based on the available funding. Also timed to prevent a bottle neck through Star upon completion of the adjacent interchange project.
Why are you only adding sidewalk on the south side?	This section of the corridor is considered rural and was designed to meet those requirements. A separate project is in development that will provide a 10–12-foot multi use pathway on the south side of State Highway 44 that will accommodate pedestrian and bicycle users through the corridor. The overall goal was to provide commuting connectivity through a multimodal transportation facility, not only accommodating vehicular traffic, but other modes as well, such as bicyclists and pedestrians.
Will this project match up the roadway with the State Highway 16 and State Highway 44 Interchange?	Yes, this project will start near Moyle Avenue, where the SH-16/SH-44 Interchange project has widened SH-44, and extend to Star Road.
What is the timeline for the project?	This project is projected to be completed in Fall/Winter of 2027. The opening will coincide with the State Highway 16 and State Highway 44 Interchange opening.
Will this project coordinate with the SH-16/SH-44 project?	Yes, both projects will be run by the Knife River Construction company allowing for smooth communication between both teams.

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Construction Impacts	
What will overall traffic impacts include?	Drivers can expect: • Shifting traffic patterns • Lane closures on SH-44 with flaggers • Most work will occur during the day • Nighttime work is expected • Nighttime noise with equipment and backup alarms
Will there be any full closures of SH-44?	No full closures are anticipated for State Highway 44. Partial lane closures should be expected, primarily at night. During the day at least one lane will be open in each direction.
Will access to businesses and local roads be maintained and open during construction?	Yes, access to businesses and local roads will remain open, however your route may change during construction due to restricted turning movements.
How loud will construction be and will work be done during the day or night?	Nearby residents will hear backup alarms and loud construction equipment.
Will there be a pedestrian detour in place when there are sidewalk closures?	Yes, a pedestrian detour route will be planned and shared with the public during any sidewalk closures.

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Phasing	
How will this project be phased?	ITD wants to make sure SH-44 is open during construction. In order to widen the roadway, there will be several phases during construction. When it - Initial Phase (Utility Work): Relocate power lines, underground utilities, and water lines. - Phase 1 & 2: Remove existing asphalt and place new asphalt. - Phase 3: Place temporary pavement in order to shift traffic and create a work zone. - Phase 4 & 5: Widen the roadway and use CRABS (Cement Recycled Asphalt Base Stabilization) technique where crews will crush up the existing surface, add cement, and use it to replace the road base. Then, new asphalt will be placed on top. - ADA Ped Ramps: Pedestrian ramps will be replaced in some areas to meet the current requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
What phase will have the most impact on traffic?	Throughout the duration of the project there will be a lane open in both directions of traffic along State Highway 44 in each phase during construction. The greatest impacts to the traveling public will be during flagging operations overnight at intersections, and when shifting traffic during the transition between phases. That work will happen overnight to minimize impacts to the public.

Funding	
How is this project being funded?	The project is a federally funded project with advanced construction funding.
What is the estimated cost of this project?	The cost to construct this project is estimated to be $5.4 million.