



## Construction Update for the week of May 23, 2011

*The information in this update is tentative  
and subject to change.*

### All About Roundabouts

#### The Roundabouts Are Coming

Six new roundabouts will be constructed as part of the Hwy 169/494 Interchange Reconstruction Project. The roundabouts are part of a new frontage “ring road” system on the local roads surrounding the interchange. Once complete, you’ll be able to navigate around the entire interchange without ever having to travel on the freeway, if you choose not to. No roundabouts will be constructed on Hwy 169 or I-494.

Substantial completion of the “ring road” system is expected by the end of this construction season, and you’ll begin using this new roadway by late November. Information on how to navigate a roundabout, “*Rethinking Roundabout Facts*,” and other opportunities to learn more about roundabouts will be a regular feature in the weekly updates as we move towards the opening of the new roadway.



***Rethinking Roundabouts:*** Circular intersections were first introduced in the United States in 1905 and differed quite significantly from our modern roundabout. Priority was given to motorists entering the intersection, which resulted in high speed merging and traffic weaving. The modern roundabout, like those included in this project, was developed in the United Kingdom in the 1960s. These modern roundabouts include better operational and safety characteristics (such as lower traffic speeds) than their older counterparts.

### General Updates

#### Southbound Hwy 169 Loop to Eastbound I-494: HOV Lane Closure (long term)

The High Occupancy Vehicle (“carpool”) lane on the southbound Hwy 169 loop to eastbound I-494 is closed. The lane will remain closed until approximately mid-November 2012. The loop ramp itself remains open, and access from southbound Hwy 169 to eastbound I-494 is still available.

#### Concrete Crushing Happens this Week

Crews will be crushing concrete near Valley View Road. The crushed concrete will be recycled and used for roadway grading on Hwy 169. Noise and vibrations may be associated with the crushing activities, but crushing will take place only during daytime hours.

#### Southbound Hwy 169 and Townline Ave

Access to southbound Hwy 169 from Townline Ave is now available, and you can also access Townline Ave from southbound Hwy 169. However, there is no access across Hwy 169 to Highwood Drive at Townline Ave or access to northbound Hwy 169 from Townline Ave. Detour maps are available on the [project website](#).

#### City of Bloomington—Utility Work at Highwood Avenue

The city of Bloomington is installing a water main at Highwood Drive under northbound Hwy 169. For more information, please contact the city of Bloomington at 952-563-8700.

## Hwy 169 & I-494 Nighttime Lane Closures

Watch for periodic nighttime Hwy 169 lane closures between Valley View Road and Anderson Lakes Parkway and on I-494 between Prairie Center Drive and West Bush Lake Road. Lane closures will occur between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. For real-time traveler information anywhere in Minnesota, visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org).

## Freeway Construction

### Northbound Hwy 169

Utility work begins this week as we install a storm sewer under the roadway. Work on the Hwy 169 bridges spanning W. 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Marth Road also continues as Hwy 169 is reconstructed to travel over the new frontage road system. Additional construction activities include roadway grading.

### Southbound Hwy 169

The current traffic configuration will remain in place until early July as we reconstruct the northbound lanes of Hwy 169.

## Interchange Construction

### Northeast Quadrant

Daytime **pile driving** continues along northbound Hwy 169 near W. 78<sup>th</sup> Street. Work on bridge piers and columns, along with retaining wall construction, also continues along westbound I-494.

### Northwest Quadrant

Construction activities continue.

### Southeast Quadrant

**Sheet piling** continues for approximately one more night as we work on the northbound Hwy 169 bridge spanning Marth Road. Work occurs on both the north and south abutments of the northbound Hwy 169 bridge spanning Marth Road. Retaining wall excavation and hauling of materials also continue.

### Southwest Quadrant

Bridge abutment work continues, **including daytime pile driving**, on the westbound I-494 bridge to southbound Hwy 169. Additional bridge work includes pier and footing construction. Retaining wall work and roundabout construction also continue.

## Bridge Construction

### Washington Ave Bridge (spanning I-494)

Work on bridge footings and columns continues.

### Northbound Hwy 169 Bridge Spanning Anderson Lakes

Deck removal activities begin this week once pile driving has concluded. The bridge is being widened to accommodate a new ramp from Hwy 169 to the new frontage "ring road" system.

### Southbound Hwy 169 Bridge Spanning Anderson Lakes

Bridge work in this area is complete for now as we reconstruct northbound Hwy 169. Work is expected to resume in this area along southbound Hwy 169 in mid-summer.

## Road Closure

### Marth Road

Marth Road is closed between Hwy 169 and West Bush Lake Road until fall 2011. You'll be able to access eastbound I-494 from Hwy 169 during the closure.

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*The Hwy 169/494 Project area includes Hwy 169 between Valley View Road and Anderson Lakes Parkway, and I-494 between Prairie Center Drive and W. Bush Lake Road.*

**For More Information on the Hwy 169/494 Interchange Reconstruction Project:**

Hwy 169/494 Project Information Line: 1-877-563-4768

Email: [Hwy169-1494@rranow.com](mailto:Hwy169-1494@rranow.com)

Hwy 169/494 Project: [www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/169](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/169)

Hwy 169/494 Project Office: 7300 Metro Boulevard, #145, Edina\*

*\*For office hours, call the Hwy 169/494 Project Information Line.*