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46.8

## Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project



Pedestrian & Bike  
Improvements



Roundabout Intersections



Regional Mobility  
Improvements through  
Access Management

## Study: Roundabouts could reduce crashes in Duluth

Roundabouts — circular road intersections where motorists all drive in one direction to their separate exits — are becoming increasingly common.

By **Steve Kuchera**, Duluth News Tribune

There may be a traffic roundabout in Duluth's future.

Roundabouts — circular road intersections where motorists all drive in one direction to their separate exits — are becoming increasingly common across Wisconsin, with one near Ashland and another planned for Superior.

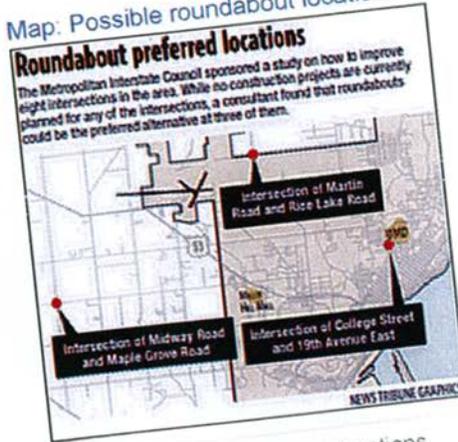
No immediate plans exist to convert any existing Minnesota intersections in or near Duluth to roundabouts. But a Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council-sponsored study of eight intersections found roundabouts might work well at three of them.

"The thing about roundabouts is they are incredible safety improvements," said Rondi Watson, MIC planning assistant. "You take left turns out of the equation."

Since all the traffic in a roundabout travels in the same direction, head-on and T-bone collisions are eliminated.

A safety study of 24 roundabouts by the University of Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety laboratory found a 52 percent reduction in fatal and injury crashes and a 9 percent reduction for all crashes.

Map: Possible roundabout locations



Map: Possible roundabout locations

According to SRF, roundabouts may be the best solutions at the following intersections:

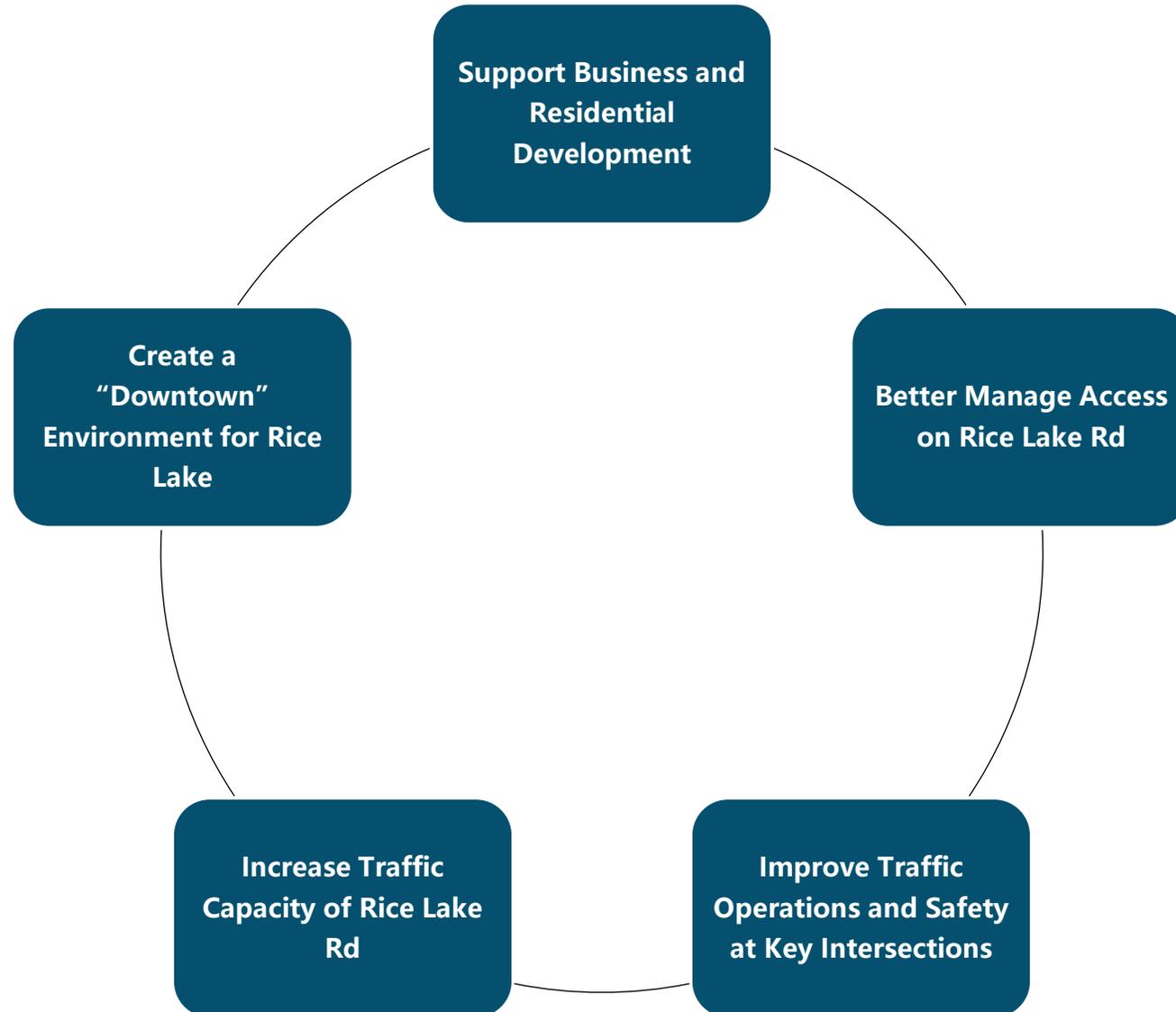
- College Street and 19th Avenue East
- Martin and Rice Lake roads
- Maple Grove and Midway roads

MIC officials stress that no roundabouts are actually yet planned for Duluth.

"We set the groundwork for work the city might do" sometime in the future, Chicka said.

Tags: [ashland county](#), [douglas county](#), [news](#), [auto](#), [transportation](#), [superior](#), [construction](#)

# Purpose and Need for Project



Roadway  
Function

Development

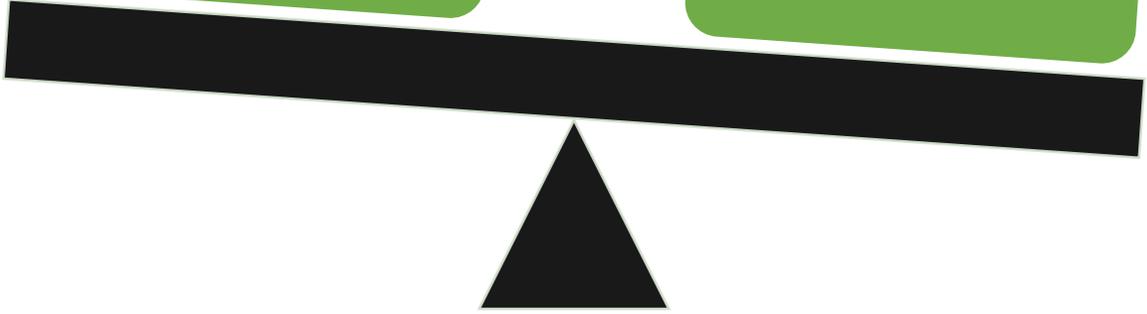
Operations/  
Safety

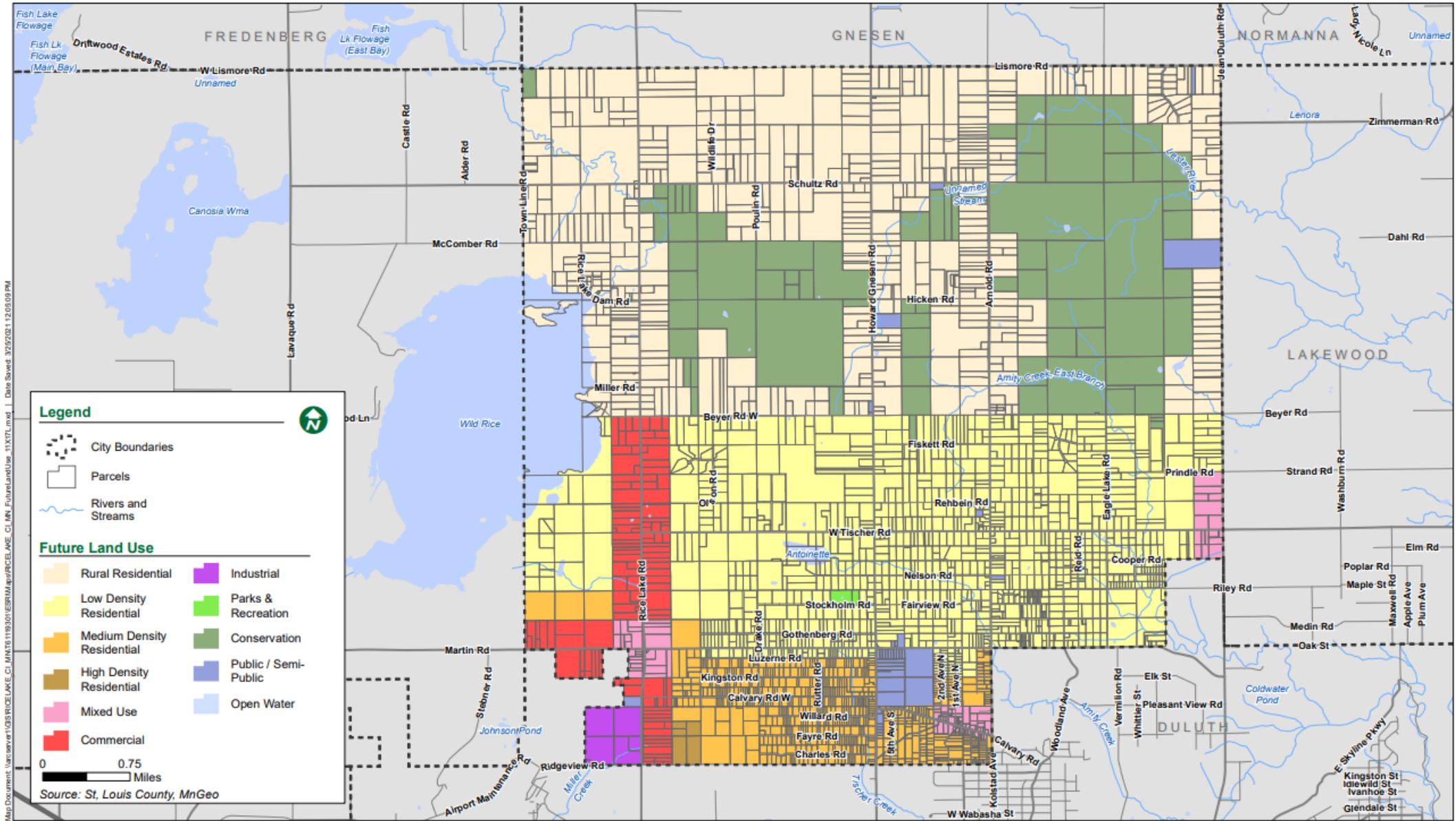
Access Management

Demand for Access

Rice Lake  
Comprehensive Plan

Development





**Legend**

- City Boundaries
- Parcels
- Rivers and Streams

**Future Land Use**

- Rural Residential
- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- High Density Residential
- Mixed Use
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Parks & Recreation
- Conservation
- Public / Semi-Public
- Open Water

0 0.75 Miles  
Source: St. Louis County, MnGeo

Map Document: \\arcserve1\GIS\RICE LAKE\CI\_MNTS\119301\ESRI\MapServer\RICE\_LAKE\_CI\_MN\_FutureLandUse\_11X17L.mxd | Date Saved: 3/25/2021 12:05:09 PM

# Access Management



**Central Entrance**  
**Begin: Arlington Avenue**  
**End: Blackman Avenue**

**33 access points →**  
**66 access points/mile**

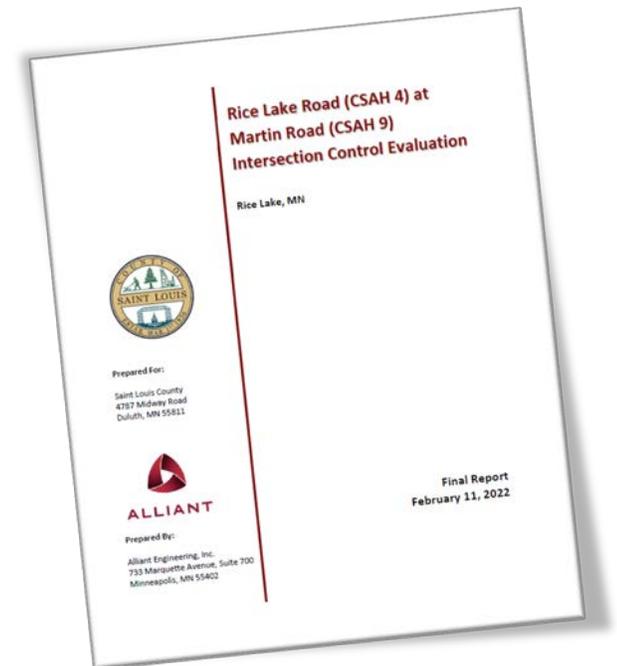


**Maple Grove Road**  
**Begin: Haines Road**  
**End: Mall Drive**

**10 access points →**  
**23 access points/mile**

# Intersection Control Evaluations

- Intersection Control Evaluations were completed in 2021/2022.
- City of Rice Lake was included in the PMT.
- Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) at...
  - Ridgeview Rd (CR 694) → Left/Right Turn Lanes
  - West Calvary Rd (CR 234) → Single Lane Roundabout
  - Martin Rd (CSAH 9) → Single Lane Roundabout
  - West Tischer Rd (CSAH 2) → Do Nothing



# Project Management

- Utilized a Project Management Team (PMT) approach.
- Operated two PMTs simultaneously...
  - Agency PMT
    - Included representation from...
      - Rice Lake
      - Duluth
      - Canosia Township
      - St. Louis County departments (Planning, Land and Public Works)
  - Internal PMT
    - Employees within Public Works and Planning
    - Consultant (Bolton & Menk)
- St. Louis County has been working with both PMTs since April 2023.

# Rice Lake Road Corridor Goals

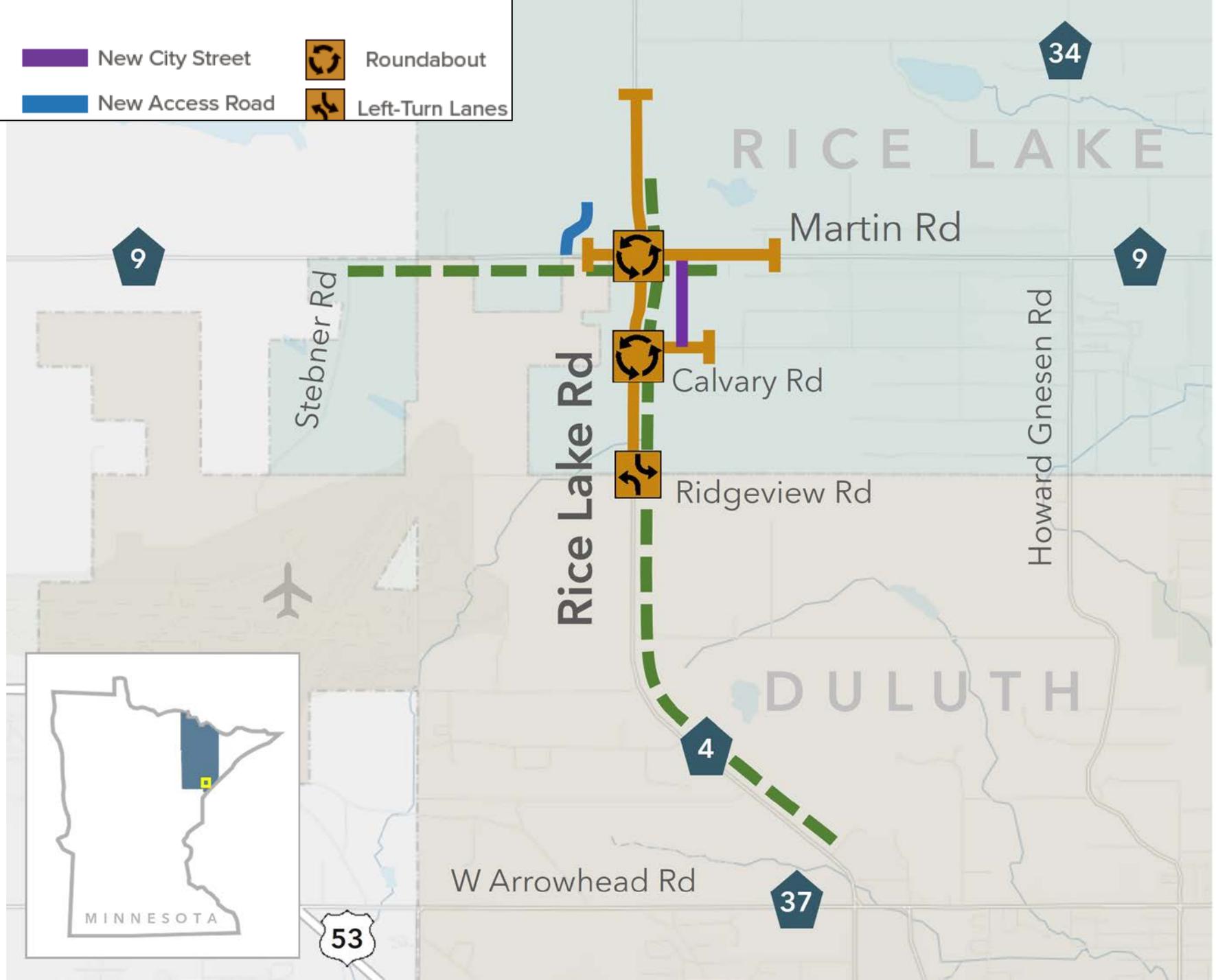
- **Improve** traffic operations and safety at the intersections
- **Preserve** the function of Rice Lake Road
- **Create** a corridor that invites development
- **Manage** access and facilitate a new city street network
- **Support** traffic calming
- **Incorporate** accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists



Gateway for the City of Rice Lake

# LEGEND

- Reconstruction
- New City Street
- Separated Trail
- New Access Road
- Roundabout
- Left-Turn Lanes



# Project Funding

- Total construction cost estimate = \$40.1 million.
- Currently working through assembling project funding.
- Will submit a funding application to the Transportation Alternatives Program for \$600,000 for the trail along Rice Lake Rd.
- Will submit a funding application to the RAISE Grant Program for \$25 million.
- Other funding sources will likely include state and federal program and discretionary funds and potentially legislative earmark(s).



- Seeking letter of support from the MIC for the RAISE Grant funding application.

# RAISE Grant Deliverables

- Preliminary project layout
- Risk assessment
- Preliminary cost estimate
- Project benefit/cost ratio
- Project promotional video
- Letters of support
- Resolutions of support
- Project one-pager
- Engagement summary
- Funding application

Agency	Received?	Resolutions of Support
City of Rice Lake		
City of Duluth		
City of Hermantown		
City of Proctor		
City of Biwabik	X	
City of Aurora	X	
City of Hoyt Lakes	X	
City of Babbitt	X	
Midway Township		
Solway Township	X	
Grand Lake Township		
Canosia Township	X	
Gnesen Township	X	
Normanna Township		
Lakewood Township		
Duluth Township	X	
Colvin Township		
White Township	X	
Biwabik Township		

# Estimated Project Timeline



# Questions?

## Project Manager

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