

2029 STBGP Project Application Evaluation Summary

This summary results from a 2029 STBGP Project Application Evaluation Process used to review and evaluate Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) applications received from appropriate jurisdictions in the MIC area during the open submittal period that ended January 10, 2025.

The purpose of the review and evaluation is to ensure submitted projects will be consistent with the MIC's current long-range transportation plan, *Sustainable Choices 2050*, and to what relative degree they propose to be consistent. The purpose of this summary is to be a supplemental aid in addition to the application materials for MIC Policy Board members to use in reviewing the proposed project, and for anyone else interested in the project to understand what is being proposed.

Lead Agency or Jurisdiction: **__St Louis County**

Project Location: **8 miles of CSAH 34 (Howard Gnesen Road) from Martin Road to Normanna Road**

Plain Language Project Description & Summary of Purpose or Need:

Full depth reclamation and bituminous paving with gravel shoulders. Given this segment is at the end of its serviceable life this is the appropriate treatment to rehabilitate the roadway.

Estimated Total Project Cost = **\$3,200,000**

Amount of STBGP Funding Requested = **\$897,000**

Is the proposed project listed in the *Sustainable Choices 2050* project list? **No**

By the MIC's definition of "regionally significant" this project does not need to be included in the project list of *Sustainable Choices 2050*.

Proposed project consistency with the Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures of *Sustainable Choices 2050*:

St. Louis County has identified that the project will help meet 13 of the 26 Objectives of *Sustainable Choices 2050*, including at least 1 objective under all 5 goals.

St. Louis County has identified that the project will help make progress in meeting all 5 of the PM1 Safety targets in *Sustainable Choices 2050* by improving pavement condition, as smooth pavement is critical as potholes, crack, bumps, and other rough surface that currently exists contribute to vehicles losing control and leaving the roadway.

Based on St. Louis County's application the proposed project will help bring the vision of *Sustainable Choices 2050* to life through the following:

- **The project will include improvements for automobiles and vehicular freight transportation.**

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- **The segment/corridor will be safer and minimize or mitigate risk for both people and freight as smooth, well-maintained roads reduce the likelihood of vehicles losing control, improve conditions for emergency response, and are more resilient to environmental stressors such as heavy rains, floods, and freezing conditions.**
- **This segment/corridor is a key road in connecting people with key community resources as both the Rice Lake City Hall and Gnesen Community Center are on/adjacent to this segment of Howard Gnesen Road.**
- **This project would help to improve the health of people and the environment as smooth pavement reduces driver discomfort and musculoskeletal issues and reduces fuel consumption of vehicles.**
- **This project is important to local economic vitality as this segment/corridor is a major collector that connects people with numerous popular lakes and reservoirs north of Duluth and is a route used by many rural residents to travel to the Duluth area for work, commerce, and recreation. Also, this corridor is an alternate freight route in and out of Duluth to the Iron Range and to support the local businesses in the rural areas north of Duluth.**
- **The proposed project would also include road shoulder improvements.**



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Proposed project for inclusion in the 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

A. Contact Information

1. **Lead Agency/Jurisdiction:** St. Louis County

a. **Contact Name:** Steve Krasaway

b. **Email Address:** krasaways@stlouiscountymn.gov

c. **Phone #:** 218-625-3841

d. **Other responsible agency (if applicable):** Click or tap here to enter text.

B. Project Information

1. Project Description

a. **Technical project description:**

Full depth reclamation and bituminous paving with gravel shoulders

b. **Plain language project description:**

Full depth reclamation and bituminous paving with gravel shoulders

c. **Project purpose and need** (*Describe transportation deficiency or issue and how it will be addressed*):

The existing bituminous pavement is at the end of its serviceable life as evident by the potholes, cracks, bumps, and dips that require a new bituminous surface to keep the roadway in a safe and reasonable condition for the traveling public. A full depth pavement rehabilitation is the appropriate treatment for this roadway.

d. **Is this project associated with/tied to any other projects?**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – List projects and/or state project numbers: Click or tap here to enter text.
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e. **Planned year of project:** 2029

2. Project Location

a. **Route name** (*e.g., roadway, intersection, rail crossing number, trail name*):

CSAH 34 (Howard Gnesen Road)

b. **Route system** (*e.g., Interstate, US Hwy, MN Hwy, CSAH, MSA and local roadway name*):

County State Aid Highway (CSAH)

c. **Project Length** (*in miles*): 8

d. **Project Termini From:** CSAH 9 (Martin Road)

To: CSAH 44 (Normanna Road)



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3. Type of Work (select all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	AC Payback	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bridge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bike/Ped Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad Crossing Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge Replacement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resurface (Mill and Overlay)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge Resurface	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roundabout
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demolition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drainage Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sidewalk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intersection Improvements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify): Resurface (Reclaim and Overlay)
<input type="checkbox"/>	ITS		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping		

4. Project Cost and Funding

a. Funding Type(s) (list all that apply, e.g., STBGP, NHPP, HSIP, TA, CRP, etc.):

STBGP

b. Estimated Total Cost: \$ 3,200,000
(including costs that extend beyond the 4 years of the TIP)

c. Federal Funding Amount:..... \$ 897,000

Federal Funding Source: Click or tap here to enter text.

d. State Funding Amount:..... \$ Click or tap here to enter text.

State Funding Source: Click or tap here to enter text.

e. Local/Other Funding Amount: \$ 2,303,000

Local/Other Funding Source: State Aid

f. A/C Funding Amount (if applicable): \$ Click or tap here to enter text.

A/C Funding Source: Click or tap here to enter text.



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C. Multimodal Features

1. Which of the following transportation mode(s) are included in and/or enhanced by this project?
(select all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Freight (Truck, Rail, or Air)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maritime (Ship or Barge)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit (Bus, Shuttle, Passenger Rail, or Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Automobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Work to be completed as part of this project:

a. Walking—*select all applicable walking-related work associated with this project:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Crosswalks – Markings or Warning System	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sidewalk Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curb Ramps	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sidewalk Addition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail/Walking Path Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail/Walking Path Addition
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADA Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

b. Bicycling—*select all applicable bicycling-related work associated with this project:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Crosswalks – Markings or Warning System	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail/Bike Path Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curb ramps	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail/Bike Path Addition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bike Lane - Painted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bike Lane - Separated
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADA Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Click or tap here to enter text.



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c. Transit—select all applicable transit-related work associated with this project:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bus Route – Improvement or Addition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Buses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dedicated Transit Lane or Drop-off
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Signage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Click or tap here to enter text.		

d. Other—select all other applicable work associated with this project:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Concrete Pavement Rehab	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic Signal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge (New)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culverts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turning Lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge Rehabilitation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grading	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intersection Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge Replacement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shoulders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roundabout	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dock Construction or Repair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Surfacing or Resurfacing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rest Area or Wayside	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-dock Harbor Infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stormwater Mngt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shipping Channel Navigation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	RR Crossing Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guard Rail Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Click or tap here to enter text.		

D. Planning Support

1. Is this project included in the MIC’s [2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan \(MTP\) Project List](#)?

Yes No

a. If yes: MTP Project Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

MTP Project Cost: \$ Click or tap here to enter text.

b. If no: Explain: While this road is not in the list, its critical needs and issues align closely with the other roads in the plan.

2. What plans, studies and/or projects support this project? (e.g., those produced by the MIC, MnDOT, or local jurisdiction. List all that apply, including name, year of publication and, if possible, a link to the document online or a related web page):

This project is in the St. Louis County Public Works Capital Improvement plan.



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3. Are there possible or anticipated barriers to project completion? (e.g., right-of-way acquisition, funding, environmental impacts, public resistance, etc.):

All work is anticipated to be in the existing road right of way and there is little to know changes for public resistance.

4. Project Visualizations: “Visualizations” are images or graphics that will give the public a better understanding of the proposed project, e.g., where it will be located, what will be constructed, how it might look and function, current conditions that will be mitigated or addressed by the project, and/or how it will complement or relate to other projects (planned or implemented).

What attachments will be included with this application to visually describe this project to the public and to the Policy Board? (Check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Map of project location
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Image(s) of current conditions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rendering of proposed improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (<i>describe</i>): Click or tap here to enter text.



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5. Long-Range Goals and Objectives: The MIC’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan, [Sustainable Choices 2050](#), establishes a community-supported vision for the greater Duluth-Superior transportation system with related long-range goals and objectives.

Describe how the proposed project will contribute to accomplishing them.

Note, the transportation improvement projects that are funded and implemented in the MIC area are key to achieving these goals and objectives over time. However, it is understood that it is not possible, or even necessary, to address them all with every project.

GOAL 1. Safety and Security: Ensure the safety and security of the Duluth-Superior area transportation system for all users and modes.

a. Which of the following objectives would this project help to accomplish? (check all that apply):

	Objective	Safety and Security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1-1	Ensure emergency response, disaster preparedness, risk mitigation, and other security measures are implemented and maintained across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-2	Ensure evidence-based, data-supported safety design is incorporated into transportation projects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-3	Improve safety for all users of the Duluth-Superior area transportation system, especially prioritizing its most vulnerable users.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-4	Meet all adopted safety-related federal and state performance measure targets.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1-5	Maintain Duluth-Superior area transportation system infrastructure to minimize or mitigate risk for both people and freight.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-6	Use technology to improve the safety and security of the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	This project would not contribute to accomplishing these objectives.

b. How would this project help to accomplish the selected objectives? (provide details):

Smooth, well maintained roads enable emergency vehicles to travel faster and safer to their destinations. Poor road conditions can delay response times, which may be critical to emergencies. Well-maintained roads are more resilient to environmental stressors such as heavy rains, floods, and freezing conditions.

GOAL 2. Livable Communities and Equity: Develop and maintain a reliable year-round Duluth-Superior area transportation system that equitably enables people of all ages, incomes, and abilities to engage in our community’s civic, economic, and social opportunities and access needed services.

a. Which of the following objectives would this project help to accomplish? (check all that apply):



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	Objective	Livable Communities and Equity
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-1	Ensure that investments in the Duluth-Superior area transportation system lead to improved and reliable transportation options for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities across all modes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-2	Ensure early and ongoing opportunities exist for the public to engage in two-way discussion about planned or proposed transportation improvements to the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-3	Appropriately scale transportation-related projects across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4	Make information about the Duluth-Superior area transportation system available to the public in a variety of ways.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-5	Build and maintain Duluth-Superior area transportation system infrastructure in a manner that expands and/or enhances connectivity with key community resources (e.g., schools, parks, community centers, community gardens, the lakewalk, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	This project would not contribute to accomplishing these objectives.

b. How would this project help to accomplish the selected objectives? (provide details):

Click or tap here to enter text.

GOAL 3. Health of People and the Environment: Promote public health, protect and enhance the environment, and facilitate energy conservation throughout the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.

a. Which of the following objectives would this project help to accomplish? (check all that apply):

	Objective	Health of People and the Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-1	Design and maintain infrastructure across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system to support and encourage a physically active everyday routine.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-2	Improve energy conservation related to the use and operation of the local and regional transportation system for both environmental and public health benefits.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3-3	Avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate the negative environmental impacts of the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	This project would not contribute to accomplishing these objectives.

b. How would this project help to accomplish the selected objectives? (provide details):



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Poor road conditions lead to discomfort and long term musculoskeletal issues for frequent travelers. Well maintained roads reduce the risks of swerving to avoid potholes or losing control on rough surfaces. Driving on smooth roads reduces energy expenditure and fuel consumption which reduces the use of fossil fuels.

GOAL 4. Moving People and Goods: Ensure the Duluth-Superior area transportation system is developed and maintained as an integrated multimodal network that efficiently gets people and goods where they need to go.

a. Which of the following objectives would this project help to accomplish? (check all that apply):

	Objective	Moving People and Goods
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4-1	Provide reliable and efficient travel options for the movement of people and goods across the entire Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4-2	Address inefficiencies in the Duluth-Superior area transportation system for all modes.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4-3	Improve real-time travel across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system for all modes.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4-4	Ensure that direct travel connections between modes of transportation for people exist and are maintained across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4-5	Ensure that direct travel connections between modes of transportation for goods and services exist and are maintained across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4-6	Meet all adopted federal and state performance measure targets for NHS infrastructure (PM2), system performance on the NHS (PM3), and transit asset management (TAM).
<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	This project would not contribute to accomplishing these objectives.

b. How would this project help to accomplish the selected objectives? (provide details)

This pavement rehabilitation project will keep the roadway in a smooth and safe condition for all trucks and vehicles that use Howard Gnesen Road.

GOAL 5. Economic Vitality: Develop and maintain the Duluth-Superior area transportation system to support economic productivity and competitiveness.

a. Which of the following objectives would this project help to accomplish? (check all that apply):



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	Objective	Economic Vitality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5-1	Ensure the Duluth-Superior area transportation system provides access to and connection between key population and employment centers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5-2	Improve access and mobility across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system for the movement of freight.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-3	Promote Duluth-Superior area transportation system decisions and investments that enhance the regional and global competitiveness of the Duluth-Superior Port.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-4	Promote Duluth-Superior area transportation system decisions and investments that stimulate neighborhood and regional economic activity.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5-5	Make it easier to travel to tourist destinations and events.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-6	Integrate existing economic development plan recommendations when making decisions about Duluth- Superior area transportation system projects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	This project would not contribute to accomplishing these objectives.

b. How would this project help to accomplish the selected objectives? (provide details)

Howard Gnesen is a major collector that is a route to get to the lakes and reservoirs outside of the Duluth area and also is a route for rural residents to travel into the Duluth area for work and recreation.

6. MIC-Area Performance Measures

The MIC, as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the greater Duluth-Superior area, must establish a performance-based approach to our transportation decision-making and programming, and adopt targets that will contribute to the accomplishment of federal performance measures for safety (PM1), infrastructure condition (PM2), system performance (PM3), and transit asset management (TAM).

As part of this performance-based approach, the MIC is integrating these performance measures into our planning activities and the transportation investments in our area.

Describe how the proposed project will contribute to accomplishing them.

Note, although the transportation improvement projects that are funded and implemented in the MIC area are key to making progress toward meeting these performance measures, it is understood that it is not possible to address them all, or even more than one, with every project.

PM1 – Safety

a. Is it anticipated that this project would contribute to achieving any of the following performance measures related to transportation safety? (check all that apply):



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PM1 – Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number of traffic fatalities
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rate of traffic fatalities
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number of serious injuries
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rate of serious injuries
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number of non-motorized fatalities & serious injuries
<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a — This project would not contribute to achieving these performance measures		

b. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated effect of the proposed project on the selected performance measures:

A smooth pavement is critical since vehicles often swerve to avoid potholes and rough surfaces are more susceptible to contributing to vehicles losing control and leaving the roadway. The new pavement will increase safety of the roadway.

PM2 – Infrastructure Condition

a. Is it anticipated that this project would contribute to achieving any of the following Performance Measures related to the condition of transportation infrastructure? (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	PM2 – Infrastructure Condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	% of NHS* bridges in good condition
	*NHS = National Highway System	<input type="checkbox"/>	% of NHS bridges in poor condition
		<input type="checkbox"/>	% of interstate pavement in good condition
		<input type="checkbox"/>	% of interstate pavement in poor condition
		<input type="checkbox"/>	% of non-interstate NHS pavement in good condition
		<input type="checkbox"/>	% of non-interstate NHS pavement in poor condition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a — This project would not contribute to achieving these performance measures		

b. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated effect of the proposed project on the selected performance measures:

Click or tap here to enter text.

PM3 – System Performance

a. Is it anticipated that this project would contribute to achieving any of the following Performance Measures related to system performance? (check all that apply):



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<input type="checkbox"/>	PM3 – System Performance on NHS*	<input type="checkbox"/>	% of reliable person miles on the interstate
	<i>*NHS = National Highway System</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	% of reliable person miles on the non-interstate NHS
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) index
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a — This project would not contribute to achieving these performance measures		

b. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated effect of the proposed project on the selected performance measures:

Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Application Certification: By typing my name below, I certify that all information provided in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

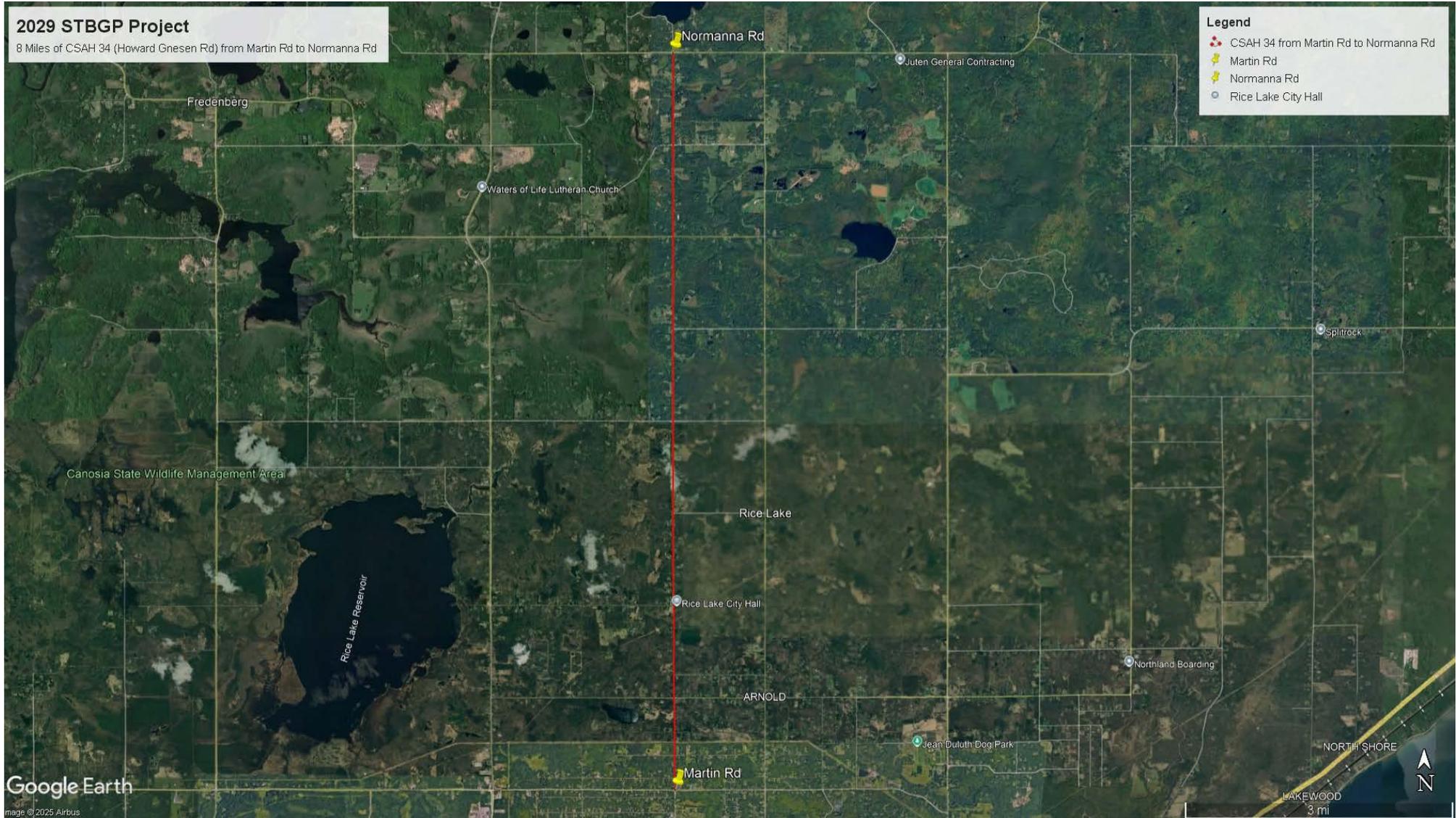
Steve Krasaway, Resident Engineer _____

01/09/2025

Name, Title

Date

Proposed St. Louis County Project Location





Proposed St. Louis County Project
(2029 STBGP)

Howard Gnesen Road —
Current Condition Photos

