

Central Entrance: A New Vision for an Old Road

Central Entrance Vision Plan

MIC Policy Board

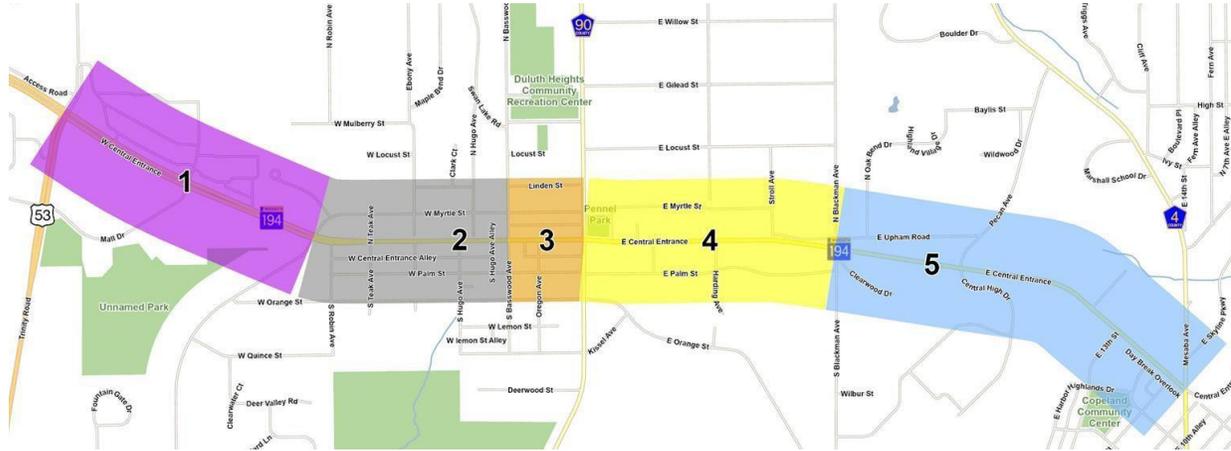
March 19, 2025



Existing Conditions



- 20,000-23,000 AADT (2019)
- Variations in posted speed limit (30-40 mph)
- Poor infrastructure condition (all modes)
- Frequent access points (business driveways)
- Highest crash rates: Zones 3,4,5
- Right-of-way not uniform



Location	Section Type	Divided/Undivided	Median/Turn Lanes
Zone1	Rural	4-lane Divided	Mix of grass ditch and raised concrete median
Zone2	Urban	Primarily 4-lane Undivided	Painted median and center left- turnlanes approaching intersections
Zone3	Urban	5-lane Undivided	Center left-turn lane
Zone4	Urban	5-lane Undivided	Center left-turn lane
Zone 5 (Blackman Ave to just west of E 14th St)	Urban	Primarily 4-lane Divided	Mix of painted and raised concrete median
Zone 5 (Just west of E 14th St to Mesaba Ave)	Urban	5-lane Undivided	Center left-turn lane

A New Vision

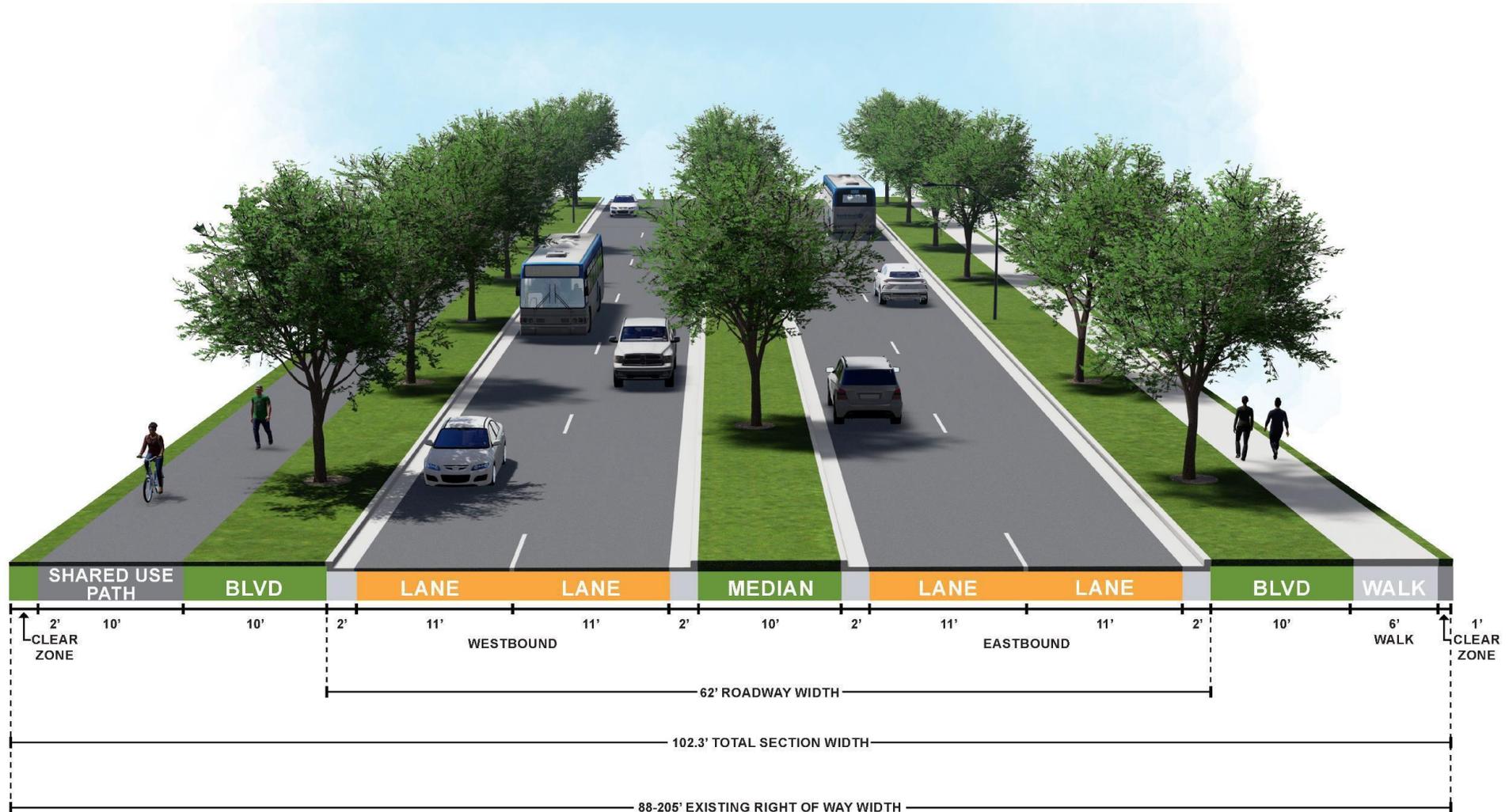
- Walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented thoroughfare which will create an attractive destination that:
 - Is safe and comfortable to use for people of all ages and abilities
 - Encourages new types of residential and commercial development



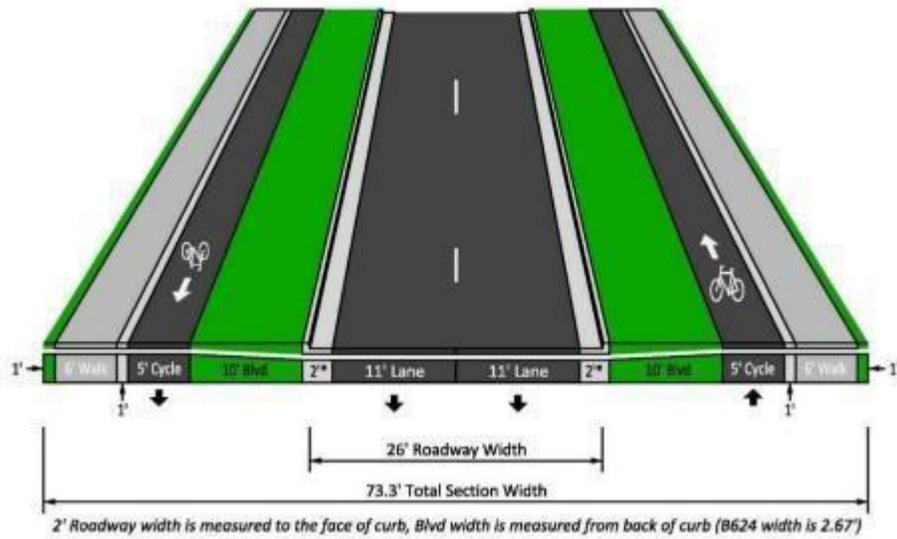
*"Better Central Entrance" Public Event
(June 4-5th, 2021)*



Zones 1 & 5: 4-lane with center median



Zones 2-4: One-way pairs option

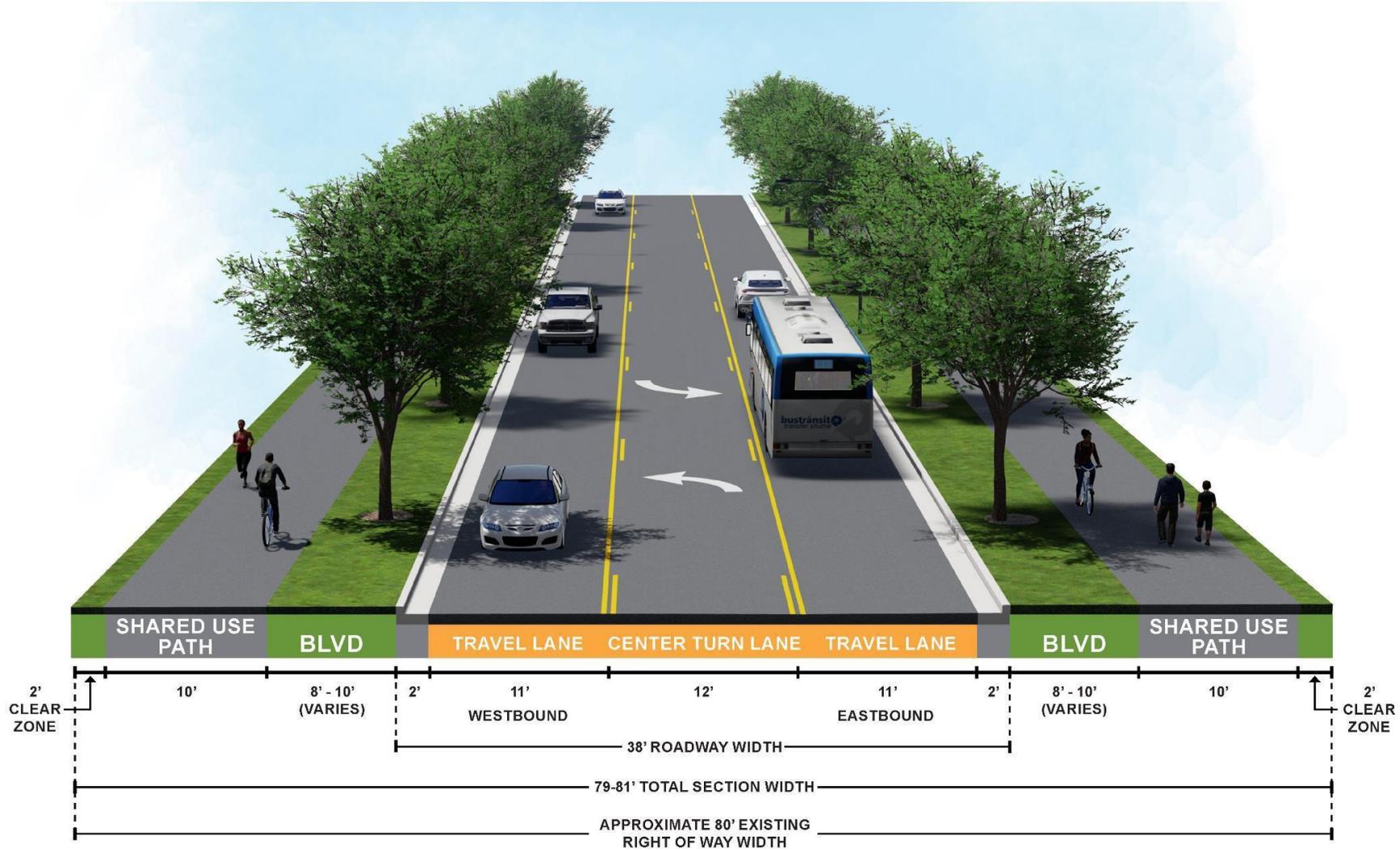


Central Entrance

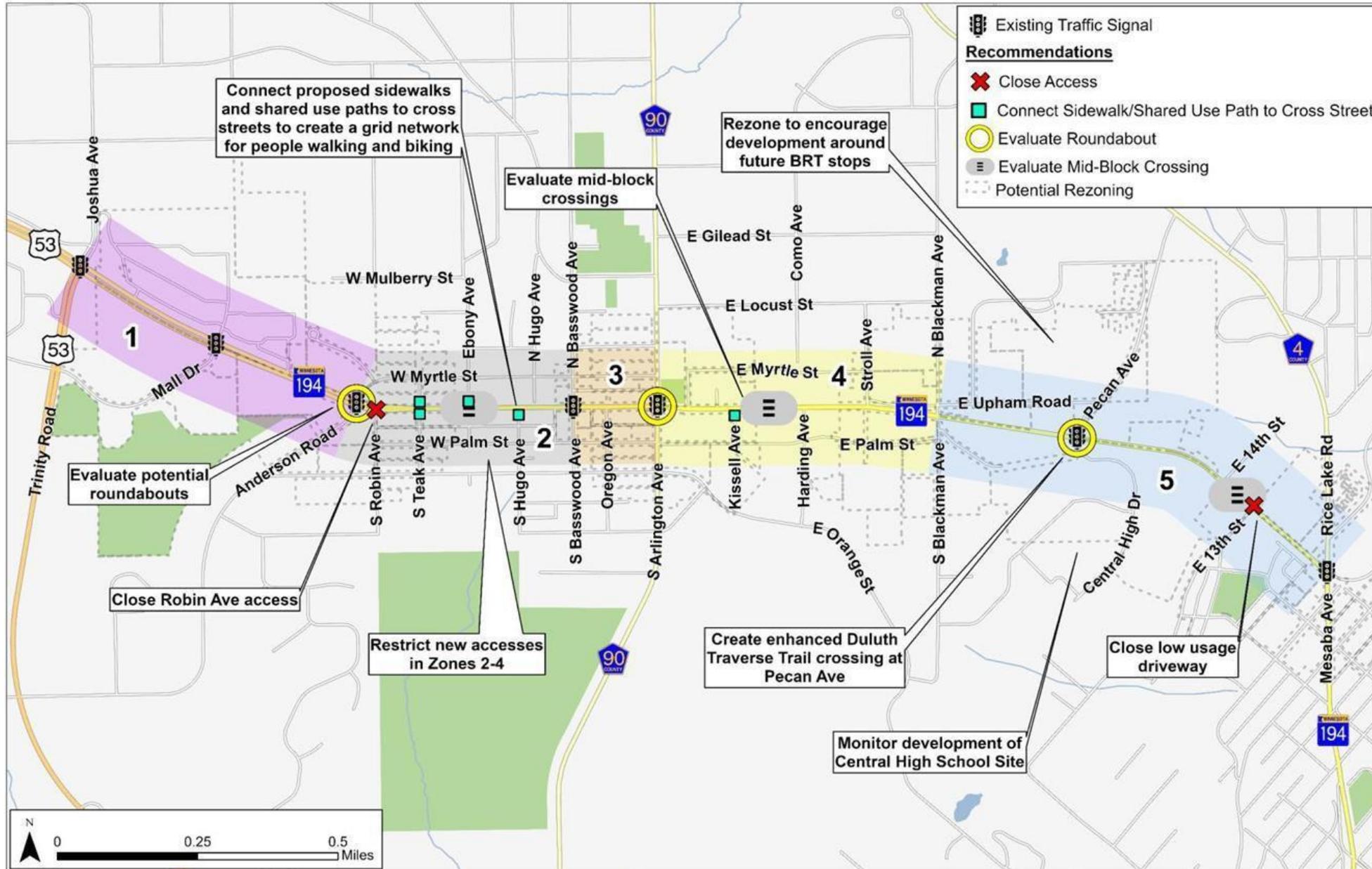


Palm Street

Zones 2, 3 & 4: 3-lane option

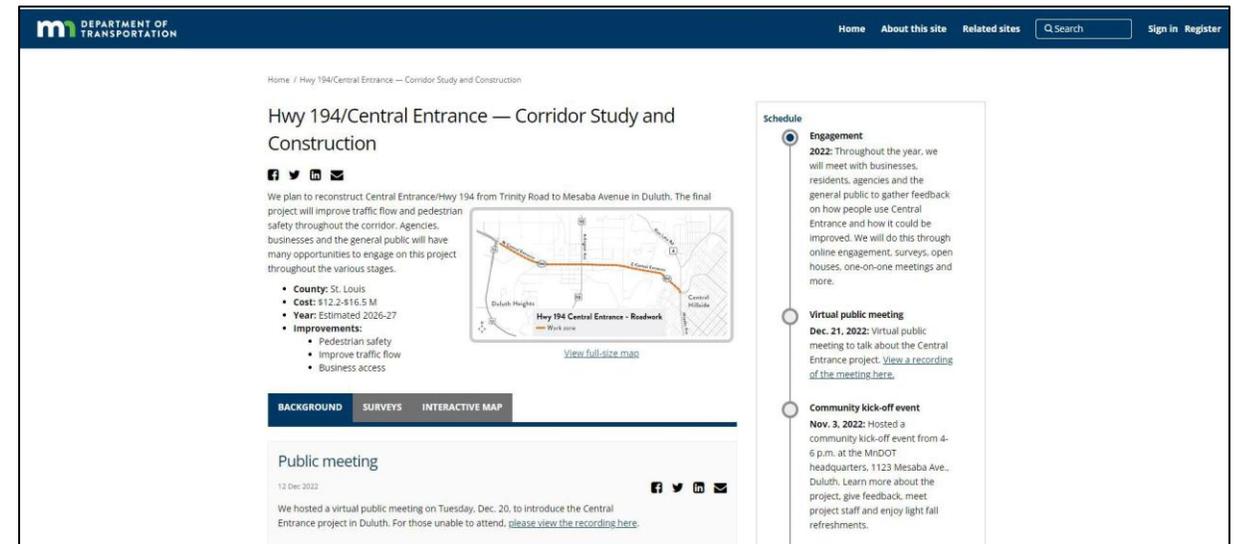


Recommendations



Project Status: Hwy 194/Central Entrance & Construction (MnDOT)

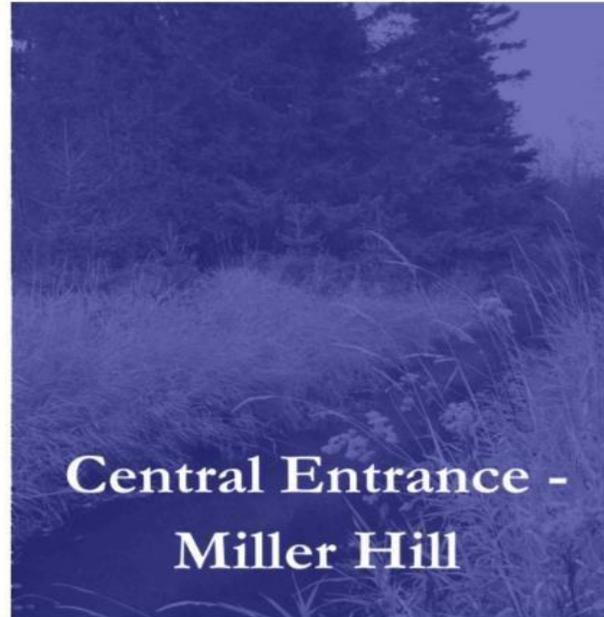
- Central Entrance design now underway
 - Additional stakeholder engagement
- Funding placeholders:
 - 2029: \$15M 2033: \$15M



The screenshot shows the MnDOT website page for the Hwy 194/Central Entrance project. The page title is "Hwy 194/Central Entrance — Corridor Study and Construction". The main content area includes a map of the project area in Duluth, MN, showing the route from Trinity Road to Mesaba Avenue. The map is titled "Hwy 194 Central Entrance - Roadwork" and includes a "View full-size map" link. Below the map, there are tabs for "BACKGROUND", "SURVEYS", and "INTERACTIVE MAP". The "BACKGROUND" tab is selected, showing a "Public meeting" section dated 12 Dec 2022. The text in this section states: "We hosted a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 20, to introduce the Central Entrance project in Duluth. For those unable to attend, please view the recording here." To the right of the main content, there is a "Schedule" section with three items: "Engagement" (2022), "Virtual public meeting" (Dec. 21, 2022), and "Community kick-off event" (Nov. 3, 2022). The "Engagement" section states: "Throughout the year, we will meet with businesses, residents, agencies and the general public to gather feedback on how people use Central Entrance and how it could be improved. We will do this through online engagement, surveys, open houses, one-on-one meetings and more." The "Virtual public meeting" section states: "Virtual public meeting to talk about the Central Entrance project. View a recording of the meeting here." The "Community kick-off event" section states: "Hosted a community kick-off event from 4-6 p.m. at the MnDOT headquarters, 1123 Mesaba Ave., Duluth. Learn more about the project, give feedback, meet project staff and enjoy light fall refreshments."

<https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-194-central-entrance>

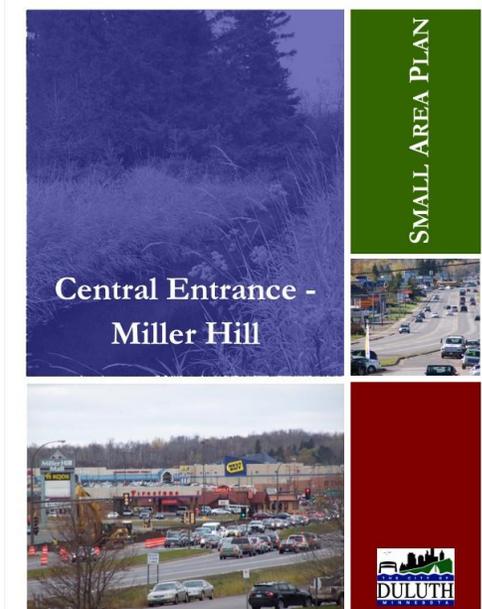
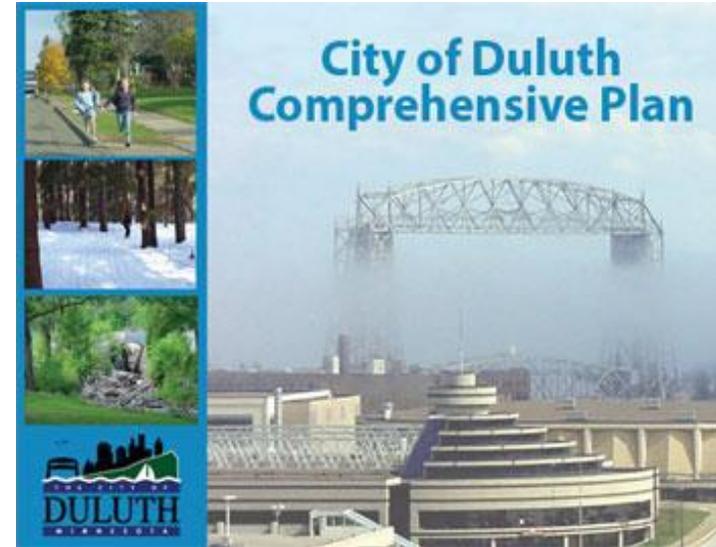
2009 – Central Entrance Small Area Plan (City of Duluth)



LONG-RANGE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The City's Comprehensive Plan principles:

- Reuse previously developed lands
- Strengthen neighborhoods
- Reinforce the place-specific
- Create and maintain connectivity
- Encourage a mix of activities, uses and densities
- Support private actions that contribute to the public realm
- Take sustainable actions



A VISION FOR CENTRAL ENTRANCE

- A more attractive and walkable place with wide sidewalks on both sides of the street and businesses that front the sidewalks with inviting storefronts.
- The motoring public will enjoy traveling to and through the district as the roadway is redesigned to provide better access to businesses.
- Central Entrance will regain its previous function as the “main street” of Duluth Heights.



Central Entrance Key Consideration Points for potential MIC Policy Board Resolution

- Functional multimodal corridor with improved facilities for transit and non-motorized movements
- Consolidate access points
- Consider lane reduction; at least for the core section (Zones 3 & 4) to aid non-vehicular movement and increase safety for all
- Any other considerations?



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?



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www.dsmic.org/centralentrance