



Outreach

The Highway 23 Coalition has expanded its coverage to 15 cities and 12 counties and now covers from I-90 in Southwest MN to I-35 in Northeast MN. The Coalition has over 100 business, government, and organizational members.

Effectiveness

The Highway 23 Coalition is appreciative of the Corridors of Commerce funding that was approved for the two four-lane gaps between Willmar and I-94 during the 2018 legislative session. Bidletting for the North Gap is scheduled for November 2021 with construction in 2022 and 2023. Last year MnDOT District 8 moved up the timetable for the South Gap by one year. Bidletting for the South Gap is projected for December 2022 with construction in 2023 and 2024.

In addition, the Highway 23 Coalition has been supportive of an improved I-94/MN23 Interchange project, an important safety project near Waite Park. In 2019 MnDOT District 3 moved up the safety project by one year and began construction of the half clover improvement.

Promoting Safety, Mobility & Growth

- The Highway 23 Coalition has identified four project priorities for 2020 and we are working towards funding these projects:
 - O Undertaking of a four-lane feasibility study that would encompass Hwy 23 from Foley to Milaca. This study would determine the best route for a four-lane road.
 - Construction of a CSAH 55 Overpass that would connect to the new Interchange at Hwy 23 and County Road 5. This bridge over the BNSF railroad would tie into the new Willmar Railroad Wye project with a direct connection to the City's Industrial Park.
- O Construction of a J-Turn in the City of Waite Park at the intersection of Bel Clare Drive and Highway 23. This intersection has become increasingly difficult for large trucks to maneuver because of traffic volume and speeds. The proposed changes will not interrupt traffic flow and would make the intersection safer for traffic entering from Bel Clare Drive.
- O Construction of a four-lane extension of Highway 23 north from the City of Marshall to the City of Green Valley, a distance of 4.5 miles. This project would continue the four-lane infrastructure on the Hwy 23 Corridor and bring it closer to connecting with Highway 212.