

Knox Avenue Transitway Construction



Project Overview

The METRO Orange Line is a 17-mile planned highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line that will connect Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington, and Burnsville along I-35W. The Orange Line will provide frequent, all-day service in both directions, seven days a week.

Knox Avenue Transitway

A transitway will be built along Knox Avenue, beneath I-494, to connect the Knox Ave & 76th St and Knox Ave & American Blvd stations. Along with transit-only lanes, the Knox Avenue transitway will include a multi-use trail for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Knox Avenue Transitway will make the trip between I-35W & 98th St and I-35W & 66th St stations 45-55 percent faster than current conditions on the Route 535.

Construction

Construction of the transitway will continue through 2021. Lane capacity on I-494 will be maintained during construction on temporary lanes.

Utility and south side temporary lane construction begins in 2019. Starting in 2020, all traffic will shift to the south side of I-494 with construction on the north side. In 2021, all traffic will shift to the north side with construction on the south side. See below for more information on the construction stages.

I-35W/I-494 Interchange: Southbound I-35W to westbound I-494 ramp

This ramp will close in Spring 2020 for approximately four months for tunnel construction beginning spring 2020.

- Detour: westbound Hwy 62 to southbound Hwy 100 to I-494
- Local Access: from southbound I-35W to 76th St or 82nd St to Penn Ave

For more information on construction and to subscribe to email updates, visit:

www.metrotransit.org/orangeline



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGIxxssJTqQ>

Questions, comments, or concerns please contact:
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Stage 2A: Spring 2020 - Fall 2020

Work: Build north segment of transitway tunnel.

Road closures:

- Ramp from southbound I-35W to westbound I-494 closed for approximately 4 months follow posted detour to westbound Hwy 62 to southbound Hwy 100 to I-494.
- 3 lanes of traffic in each direction maintained on the south side of I-494.



Stage 2B: Fall 2020 - Winter 2020

Work: Build I-494 median area for winter road configuration.

Road closures:

- Short-term, weekend or overnight lane and ramp closures anticipated



Stage 3A: Spring 2021 - Summer 2021

Work: Build south segment of transitway tunnel.

Road closures:

- 3 lanes of traffic in each direction maintained on north side of I-494.



Stage 3B: Summer 2021

Work: Connect tunnel segments

Road closures:

- Ramp from eastbound I-494 to southbound I-35W is closed for approximately 3 weeks. Follow posted detour.



Stage 3C: Fall 2021

Work: I-494 barrier work and return I-494 to original lane configuration.

Road closures:

- Weekend and/or overnight closures anticipated. More information will be in 2021.

