Project Overview

17-mile transitway now fully in construction
Region’s busiest express bus corridor with 14,000 daily transit rides and over 200,000 vehicles/trucks
12 accessible transit stations with enhanced infrastructure with all-day, reliable, frequent service, seven days a week
Access to 198,000 jobs and 121,000 residents, including 56,000 jobs outside of downtown Minneapolis
$150.7 million project, all funding secured
First phase of construction underway, led by MnDOT, on I-35W in Minneapolis
Next phase of construction, the Knox Avenue Transitway, began in 2019 in Richfield and Bloomington
$74.1 million awarded from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through the Small Starts program
Scheduled to open for revenue service in late 2021
Knox Avenue Transitway Renderings

The 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 Staging

Stage 1A: Aug - Oct 2019

Work: Utility and water main construction begins.

Road closures:
- Southtown Dr. is closed for the duration of construction – access to businesses remain open.
- Late Sept.- early Oct. (date is still TBD), ramp from southbound I-35W to westbound I-494 closed for approximately 3 weeks, follow posted detour westbound Hwy 62 to southbound Hwy 100 to I-494.
- Overnight ramp closure(s) from Penn Avenue to eastbound I-494 are anticipated, follow posted detour routes;
  » To eastbound I-494 take eastbound American Blvd. or eastbound 76th St. to Lyndale Ave.
  » To southbound I-35 take eastbound 82nd St. to I-35W.

Stage 1B: Fall 2019

Work: Build temporary I-494 lanes on Southtown Drive and SW corner of I-494 and I-35W interchange for future traffic during tunnel construction.

Road closures:
- Ramp from eastbound I-494 to southbound I-35W for approximately 2 weeks, follow posted detour thru three I-494 and I-35W interchange ramps. Northbound I-35W then westbound I-494 to southbound I-35W.

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.
- Three 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.
Construction Staging

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 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.
Detour/Local Access

Ramp closed eastbound I-494 to southbound I-35W

Eastbound I-494 to southbound I-35W ramp will be closed for approximately three weeks beginning in fall 2019 and again beginning in 2020, with anticipated closures expected in 2021.

Local business access is available from:
- Penn Avenue southbound to American Boulevard or 82nd Street
- Lyndale Avenue southbound to American Boulevard or 82nd Street

Bus routes:
- Route 535 is not expected to be impacted by closure

Ramp closed southbound I-35W to westbound I-494

Southbound I-35W to westbound I-494 ramp will be closed for approximately 3 weeks in fall 2019 and again beginning in 2020 for approximately 4 months. Follow posted detour to westbound Hwy 62 to southbound Hwy 100 to I-494.

Local business access is available from:
- 76th Street westbound to Penn Avenue or for businesses further west continue westbound 76th Street to Xerxes Avenue or France Avenue.
- 82nd Street westbound to Penn Avenue southbound to American Boulevard.

Bus routes:
- Route 535 is not expected to be impacted by closure