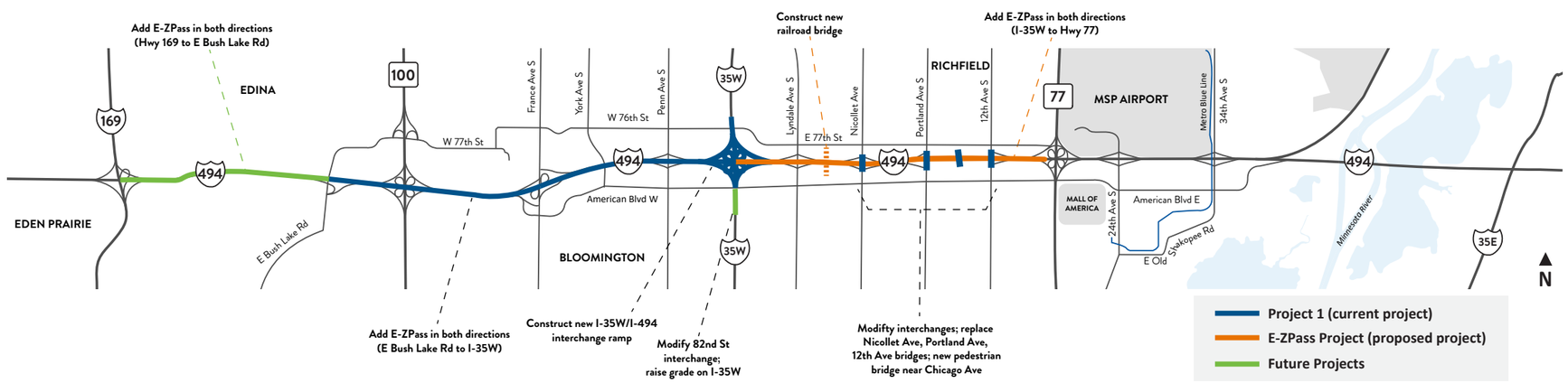
I-494 E-ZPass: Project (March 2024)

Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Council

I-494 E-ZPass Project will improve safety and mobility for motorists, transit users, bicyclists and pedestrians in the southern Twin Cities metro area by relieving congestion on the I-494 corridor. The project will address current and future transportation issues on I-494 from I-35W to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, enhancing travel-time reliability throughout the region.

Study webpage: mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169



Project needs:

Improve motorist safety

- Multiple areas of I-494 have critical crash rates, including 11 of 14 interchanges
- 3,614 crashes on I-494 during a five-year period (2018-2022)
- 3,179 of the crashes occurred at I-494 interchanges (88 percent of all crashes within the corridor)

Reduce traffic congestion and enhance mobility

- More than 165,000 AADT; 14,500 truck/heavy commercial traffic
- Hours of congestion in both directions during the morning peak period
- Multiple areas of I-494 have a Level of Service rating of F during peak hours
- One section of I-94 is part of the Primary Highway Freight System, the most critical highway portions of the U.S. freight transportation system

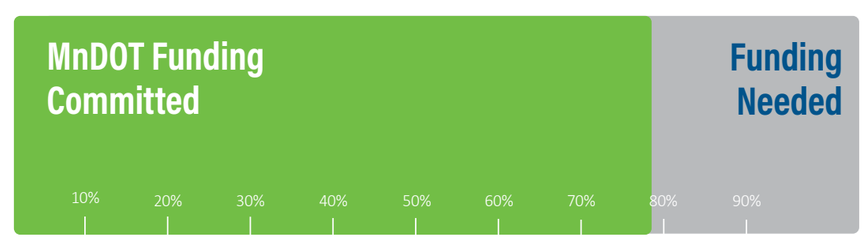
Project benefits:

- Provides a transit and high-occupancy vehicle advantage (E-ZPass) to increase the number of people who can be moved efficiently through the area
- Improves travel and travel-time reliability of the average rush-hour trip on and near the I-494 corridor, including MSP International Airport and The Mall of America
- Enhances safety and mobility for people walking, biking, driving and using transit
- Completes a key section of I-494 E-ZPass between I-35W and MSP International Airport and advances the I-494: Airport to Highway 169 Vision*

* Construction on the first project of the I-494: Airport to Highway 169 Vision started in spring 2023 and is scheduled for completion in fall 2026. More information on that project can be found at: **mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169**

Schedule

2024	2025	2026	2027-2030
Update Environmental Management Plan	Preliminary Design	Final Design	Construction



Funding Need

Total *Estimated* Investment Need

$240.39M

Inflated to 2027 *estimated* dollars