



County Road 54 Reconstruction & Mississippi Greenway Extension

Trail Inclusion Update CP 54-011

Physical Development Committee

June 16, 2026

Presenter: John Sass, Transportation Project Manager

Project Overview



- Reconstruction of 7 miles of CSAH 54
- High-risk rural corridor with safety and flooding issues
- Addresses geometric, drainage, and visibility deficiencies
- Evaluates trail option within regional connectivity plans

Purpose & Need



- ~200 crashes over 10 years
 - including 4 fatalities
- ~3 miles lacking standard shoulders
- 8 curves below 55-mph design speed
- 4 segments below 100-year floodplain
- Improves safety, drainage, and flood resiliency

Petition Acknowledgment



- Petition received April 21
- Concerns:
 - Property impacts
 - Privacy
 - Rural character
 - Fiscal stewardship
 - Environmental considerations
- Evaluation through:
 - Design refinement
 - EAW
 - Agency Coordination

Petition Concerns



- Environmental impacts
- Property rights
- Fiscal responsibility
- Community priorities
- Request to pause project development
- Themes align with two years of engagement

Environmental Assessment Summary



- Draft EAW completed (roadway + trail)
- ~2.3 acres of wetland impact
- No expected listed-species impacts
- Ongoing MnDNR coordination
- EAW valid with or without trail

Right-of-Way Impacts



- Road only: ~7.1 acres
- Road + trail: ~9.9 acres
- ~2.8 Additional acres across corridor
- ~86% of trail alignment within existing ROW
- Impacts primarily in constrained areas (slopes, drainage, walls)
- Common concerns: proximity, privacy, rural character
- Similar rural trails typically do not increase trespass

Alternatives and Cost



| Evaluation Criteria For Project Goals | 1: Road - No Trail | 2: Road & Paved Trail | 3: Road & Graded Trail | 4: Future Trail |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| ROW Impacts (Acre) | 7.1 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 2.8 |
| Impacts < 60' from home (#) | 8 | 14 | 14 | 6 |
| Walls Needed (#) | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Curb & Gutter/Storm Sewer (Miles) | 1.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 2.9 |
| Wetland Impacts (Acre) | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 0.2 |
| Meets Greenway Goals for Trail Connectivity | No | Yes | long term | long term |
| Right of Way Cost | \$2.0 M | \$2.5 M | \$2.5 M | \$0.5 M |
| Construction Cost | \$25.0 M | \$33.5 M | \$32.2 M | \$8.6 M |
| Total Estimated Cost Right of Way + Const | \$27.0 M | \$36.0 M | \$34.7 M | \$9.1 M |

Cost Comparison



| 2030 Construction Total Estimated Cost | Paved Trail | Graded Trail | No Trail (Future) |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Road Construction | \$27 | \$27 | \$0 |
| Trail Construction | \$9 | \$7.7 | \$9.1 |
| Total Construction | \$36 | \$34.7 | \$9.1 |
| | | | |
| Future Trail Costs 4% Interest | --- | Paving | ROW + Grading +Paving |
| Trail Baseline | --- | \$1.3 M | \$9.1 M |
| +5 years | --- | \$1.6 M | \$11.1 M |
| +10 years | --- | \$ 1.9 M | \$13.5 M |

Community Priorities



- Safety is top community priority
- Mixed trail views (safety vs privacy)
- Both options viable
- Regional partners support connectivity

Roadway Safety



- Broad support for safety improvements
- Desire for improved curves, shoulders, visibility
- Safety work advances regardless of trail
- Trail not required for reconstruction

Public Input Themes



- Support for safety improvements
- Mixed views on trail impacts
- Rural-character & farm-access concerns
- Sightlines & driveway visibility needs
- Snowplow, drainage & property-impact issues
- Themes consistent with petition

Petition Concerns: Staff Responses



- Environmental: no significant impacts; mitigation planned
- Property rights: ~86% of alignment in existing ROW
- Fiscal: trail adds cost; grant reduces burden
- Priorities: safety remains primary concern
- Project pause: reconstruction and EAW proceed

Next Steps



- Board direction on trail inclusion
- EAW publication following Board awareness
- June 23: Board consent (EAW & Grant)
- Submit CP 54-11 to 2026 Regional Solicitation
- Begin EAW public comment period
- Continue MnDNR and local coordination
- Refine design based on Board guidance

- Summary of project status and key findings
- Staff available for questions
- Board guidance requested