

Project Information

Project Purpose: The primary purpose of this project is to determine a preferred alignment and grade separated crossing infrastructure type for the Vermillion Highlands Greenway at CSAH 46 in coordination with County Project 99-013, which is already underway. In partnership with the University of Minnesota and their UMORE property, this alignment will need to prioritize other important factors in the evaluation of a grade separated crossing/ trail alignment options that include:

1. Proposed Akron Ave alignment- [see CSAH46 preliminary design – Late Fall 2025](#)

[UMN Real Estate map](#) (shows University-owned tracts)

2. Environmental constraints

[UMORE document repository](#)- this resource contains environmental and technical information; see DEF Line content in the [Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, UMore East, Dakota County, MN](#)

Braun Intertec conducted and environmental analysis for the CSAH46 alignment, which will be supplied.

3. University operations / research

[UMore Rosemount Research and Outreach Center](#)- RROC research fields are core to University mission at UMore and cannot be disrupted. More detail about operations and preliminary design files will be provided as needed through meetings with the university during the alignment study. The University has long-term mining lease agreements in UMore Park west of Akron Avenue, both north and south of CSAH46

4. Long range development impacts

In 2015 the Board of Regents approved market-based development of UMore Park. Consult with University of Minnesota on the alternatives considered for the grade separated crossing with regards to future development / land use, as prior concept plans are no longer current/ could change

UMore Park Alternative Urban Areawide Review:

[AUAR Update 2023](#)

[AUAR Update 2018](#)- contains alternatives for future land use, see esp. Pg 24 Figure 6 - Scenario 3

[AUAR 2013](#)

[Vermillion Highlands Concept Master Plan](#)- long range plan and design principles for research, recreation, and wildlife management area

Deliverables: The primary technical deliverables the project will include alignment feasibility, determining a grade -separated crossing with location, agency coordination, data collection, environmental reviews, permits, approvals, surveys, stormwater and hydraulic evaluation, geotechnical, right of way, and traffic analysis.

Agency Engagement (meetings, events, activities, website): This project will include efforts to engage local partners including the City of Rosemount, City of Empire, and University of Minnesota. The consultant will have a lead role as the technical expert and will provide exhibits and information.

Schedule: The work plan will include concurrent tasks through summer of 2026 that include stakeholder engagement and technical design milestones to deliver a feasibility study by August 31, 2026.

Consultant Selection Summary

Request for Proposals (RFP): The RFP for the project was released on November 19, 2025. The RFP was sent to the following four consulting firms: Bolton-Menk, Kimley-Horn, KLJ Engineering, MSA, SHE, TKDA, andToole Design. Dakota County staff agreed to request proposals from these firms because of the familiarity with similar projects in the City and County, and similar project experience. Conversations with firms occurred before the proposal period to engage in project details. Other firms chose not to submit a proposal due to their current workload and lack of capacity for this project, the belief that other consultant firms were better suited for this project, and the inability to deliver the project with the proposed timeline in the RFP.

Review Team Agencies: Dakota County

Review Process: Four proposals were received on December 12, 2025. The proposals were reviewed by Dakota County Staff in Parks, Transportation, and Planning. The scoring panel met on December 19, 2025 to discuss the both proposals received, address any concerns with each proposal, and select the consultant.

Evaluation Results: The proposal received by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. rated highly based on project approach, understanding of scope and project team. The consultant identified appropriate measures for quality control, had direct experience completing preliminary design on the project, had comparable past performance on similar projects and an appropriate public involvement plan. The proposal review utilized the criteria listed and paid special attention to project approach, stakeholder engagement, schedule and task hour accuracy, and attention to project milestones to support a best-value decision.

Summary of Proposed Costs:

Consultant	Cost/Hr	Total Hours	Total Cost
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.	\$ 155.91	1069	\$ 182,330

Recommendation and Summary: The project scoring panel selected Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for CP 2000642 because they provided the best understanding of the project scope, provided a reasonable schedule and suitable task hours with emphasis on stakeholder engagement, surveys, stormwater, traffic analysis and roadway engineering. They also presented a qualified team, provided staff’s expected level of effort and most

accurately reflected the project needs. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. provided a project manager and stakeholder engagement process that have proven success in Dakota County, Rosemount, and Empire.