

## I-35/HWY 33 ROUNDABOUT CLOQUET, MN

### Project Background

Over a 10-year period, there have been two fatal crashes and five serious injury crashes at the intersection of Highway 33, I-35 ramps and Frontage Road. The crashes have been high-speed, right angle incidents. The 5-year crash rate is significantly greater than the statewide crash rate for similar type intersections.

To address this safety problem, the existing intersection will be replaced with a new roundabout. Based on a 2017 MnDOT safety study where roundabouts have been constructed, roundabouts have resulted in an 85% reduction in fatal crashes, 83% reduction in serious injury crashes and 42% reduction in injury crashes.

**Bid Cost:** \$2.2 million

**Contractor:** Ulland Brothers, Inc.

**Construction Start Date:** May 14, 2018

**Construction End Date:** September 22, 2018

**Anticipated traffic impacts during construction:** The project will be staged so that traffic on Highway 33 and the I-35 ramps is maintained through the intersection. Southbound Highway 33 traffic to northbound I-35 will be detoured for a time via I-35 southbound to Highway 210. The Frontage Road will also be closed/detoured for a time during construction.

### Roundabout General Information

- Signals, stop signs and yield signs depend on drivers to comply for the safety they imply.
  - When drivers don't comply, the outcomes often involve high energy crashes, the deadliest kind for road users.
  - Drivers will make mistakes, roundabouts help minimize the potential for fatal and serious injury outcomes.
- Modern roundabouts alter the speed through the intersection to 15-20 mph, and change the interaction of vehicles from right angle to sideswipe.
- The reduction in speed lowers the energy of a crash and the change in geometry alters the transfer of energy from one vehicle to the other.
  - Rather than a stop sign which relies entirely on the driver for its effectiveness, a roundabout is more visible and forces **ALL** vehicles to slow down on their respective approaches.
  - At worst, a roundabout-related collision would be a less-impactful sideswipe situation.
- Other benefits of modern roundabouts:
  - Less delay
  - Less emissions
  - Speed management
  - Lower operating costs



### Project Contacts

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**Project Website:** <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/i-35-cloquet/index.html>

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