



Hwy 212 Project - Benton Township Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Highway 212 Project – Benton Township?

Carver County, in partnership with Benton Township, the Cities of Norwood Young America and Cologne, and MnDOT, are working together to reconstruct and expand the highway from a two-lane undivided to a four-lane divided highway. On both ends, the highway will connect to the existing four-lane divided highway segments, completing the last remaining 'gap' in the highway corridor from the City of Glencoe to the Twin Cities.

What is the project schedule? When will construction occur?

The Benton Township phase of the Hwy 212 project began in 2021 with the development of preliminary design and environmental documentation. Final design began in the Fall of 2022 and final design work will continue through the end of 2023. Construction is planned to occur from the Spring of 2024 through the 2026 construction season.

Why does the Highway 212 – Benton Township project layout include proposed ponds?

These are stormwater ponds, created to collect stormwater runoff which occurs when rain and snow melt runs off streets, parking lots, rooftops, and compacted lawns. The ponds are designed to look like natural wetlands. The proposed layout includes both wet ponds and dry ponds. Wet ponds are designed to retain water. Whereas dry ponds will absorb runoff stormwater for a few days before returning to naturally landscaped vegetation. These stormwater ponds are included in the project design because they prevent flooding and collect stormwater and pollutants like heavy metals, sediment, bacteria, oils, and nutrients. The ponds collect and filter the water, keeping pollutants out of lakes and rivers.

You can learn more about stormwater ponds in Carver County, as well as tips for reducing mosquitoes and keeping wetlands clean on [Carver County Water Management Organization's stormwater ponds page](#).

How will the design of stormwater ponds address community concerns about safety and mosquitos?

Public safety is always considered in pond design. Residents have asked questions and expressed concern about the potential for increased mosquitoes near pond locations. This is a helpful comment and a valid concern. Dry ponds are designed to hold water during storm events and then release the water within three days, which helps avoid mosquitoes from becoming a nuisance. If wet stormwater ponds are functioning correctly, it limits breeding sites for mosquitoes. Additionally, the Metropolitan Mosquito



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Control District provides treatment for mosquitoes and is responsible for protecting the public from disease and annoyance caused by mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks.

If you are concerned about mosquitoes, the district has an interactive map where residents can log in and see how and when stormwater ponds have been treated for mosquitoes. Once the Highway 212 Project in Benton Township has been completed, you can visit [Metropolitan Mosquito Control District](#) website and click on “Services” and then “District maps” to learn more about the treatment of stormwater ponds on this segment of Highway 212.

What is the recommended design for Hwy 51/Hwy 212 intersection?

The project recommends a grade separated interchange at the intersection of Hwy 212 and Hwy 51. The design is a grade separated quadrant interchange with Hwy 51 on a new alignment to the east of the existing highway. Hwy 51 would be constructed on a bridge over Hwy 212. The north and south quadrant roadways would connect with Hwy 212 at the existing Hwy 51 intersection and use existing Hwy 51. The grade separated quadrant interchange was identified as the alternative because of vehicle safety benefits, Hwy 51 mobility, and because this design minimizes impacts to the surrounding environment compared to other grade separated alternatives.

I live on Hwy 212 in the project area, what should I expect for land acquisition?

Property owners who live along Hwy 212 and may potentially be impacted by the project have already been contacted regarding the Land Acquisition process. For questions regarding your parcel, please contact Penny and Brent Rolf who are leading the right of way and land acquisition process on behalf of Carver County.

Will I be able to access and farm temporary easements?

There may be opportunities to access farmland held in temporary easements, depending on construction activities and project schedule. For questions regarding your parcel, please contact Penny and Brent Rolf who are leading the right of way and land acquisition process on behalf of Carver County.

How will this project change the level of noise on Hwy 212?

The project conducted a noise study as part of the environmental review process. The study showed that the project does not create noise volumes that warrant the inclusion of noise walls. The newly constructed four-lane segment of Hwy 212 will include rumble strips. The project team reviewed the location of rumble strips to help provide more buffer near driveways and other private property access points.



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How do snow fences improve safety?

Drifting and blowing snow can create safety and visibility issues on the highway. The project includes the placement of snow fences on the north side of Highway 212 to help reduce the amount of drifting snow and ice that will accumulate on Highway 212. Snow fence locations were determined using a modeling software that considers winds from the northwest and the terrain of the land leading up to Highway 212

What utility work is included in the Hwy 212 Benton Township project?

The project includes utility coordination and the installation of power, gas and telecommunications utilities. In addition to the inclusion of utilities, the project will also need to conduct tree clearing in preparation of construction. Please contact Penny and Brent Rolf for questions specific to your parcel. For more information about high-speed fiber internet please contact CarverLink/Metronet. CarverLinks's current plans show fiber to be placed along this entire stretch of Highway 212 at some point in the future.

How will the addition of J-turn or Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI) change access to/from Hwy 212?

The completed Hwy 212 project will include J-turns/RCIs at Tacoma Ave, Salem Ave, Hwy 153, and the County Public Works building. Additionally, there will be U-turn locations between Salem Ave and Highway 51. The J-turns/RCIs help to improve safety, meet the needs of forecasted traffic volumes and improve vehicle sightlines.

- **SAFETY:** A U-turn, or direct left turn, would introduce an additional high-speed conflict point which would have the potential to increase safety issues due to the proximity of the Tacoma Ave. and Salem Ave. Reduced Conflict Intersections.
- **TRAFFIC VOLUMES:** Current and forecasted traffic volumes at Stewart Ave. are significantly lower than Tacoma Ave. or Salem Ave.
- **SIGHTLINE IMPROVEMENTS:** The project will regrade Hwy 212 east of Stewart Ave. to improve vehicle sightlines at the Salem Ave. Reduced Conflict Intersection.
- **LOCATIONS:** RCIs or J turns were placed to keep round trip maneuvers for all property owners with access on Highway 212 to less than 2 miles total.