

Date: April 22, 2025
To: Minnesota House of Representatives – Committee on Capital Investment
From: Mitchell Walbridge, City Administrator
Subject: HF3128 - Lanesboro; utility infrastructure improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated

Project Scope: The Minnesota Trunk Highway 250 roadway and utility reconstruction project will include replacing the sanitary sewer collection and water distribution infrastructure, including associated roadway and surface restoration, along the project corridor, which includes Parkway Avenue from Minnesota Highway 16 to Ashburn Street, Ashburn Street from Parkway Avenue to the bridge over the Root River. The project also includes replacement of the existing failing watermain extension to the area known as “Little Norway” located along Norway Drive and the Lanesboro Public Utilities power plan with a new watermain connection, including associated roadway and surface restoration, extending from the intersection of Norway Drive and Oxtail Road east across the Root River to a point located 900 feet north of the intersection of Parkway Avenue and Kirkwood Street, and from the Lanesboro Public Utilities Power plan south to Norway Drive.

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$13,100,000

- Construction Estimate: \$11,320,000
- Right of Way Estimate: \$180,000
- Engineering Estimate: \$1,600,000

Project Importance: City water and sewer infrastructure is aging, increasingly at a risk of failure and is overdue for replacement to ensure safe and reliable services for residents, businesses, and the large footprint of tourism traffic that comes to Lanesboro. The project area includes infrastructure that services the infant through twelfth grade public school, city hall, and the downtown commercial business district in Lanesboro.

Project Justification: By replacing infrastructure concurrently with MnDOT’s roadway work, the City of Lanesboro is making a fiscally responsible and forward-thinking investment in the long-term sustainability and safety of its essential public utilities. The reconstruction of the water and sewer infrastructure is a critical investment for not only the residents and businesses of Lanesboro but also for the economic vitality of Minnesota as a whole. Lanesboro is a notable tourism destination in Minnesota, the Midwest, and beyond, and attracts thousands of visitors each year to experience its historic downtown, outdoor recreation along the Root River, and the Root River State Trail. Tourism is a key driver of the local economy, supporting small businesses, restaurants, lodging, and recreational outfitters—many of which rely on modern and reliable infrastructure to operate effectively.

Delay of infrastructure improvement would mean significant cost and more disruption in the future as the city would need to excavate a reconstructed roadway in the near future. Alignment with the roadway reconstruction will provide efficiency and prevent future water and sewer system failures that could compromise public health and disrupt commercial activity which would impact small business owners.



Exhibit A. Minnesota TH250 Project Area is the main travel corridor through Lanesboro.



Exhibit B. Lanesboro's downtown commercial district will see significant business disruption during project construction.