

**St. Louis County Handout for HF4006 (Warwas)**  
**St. Louis County Progress Parkway Project – Modifying Prior Appropriation**  
**House Ways and Means**  
**Committee Chair:** Rep. Paul Torkelson  
**Committee Co-Chair:** Rep. Cedrick Frazier

**April 20, 2026 10:15AM, Capitol Hearing Room 120**

St. Louis County is requesting to modify a prior appropriation for phase I of the Progress Parkway project in the City of Eveleth, amending Laws 2023, chapter 68, article 1, section 17, subdivision 17.

In 2023 the Rock Ridge School District constructed a new high school and elementary school, including athletic facilities, on the east side of Trunk Highway 53 in the City of Eveleth.

Currently, for all modes of transportation, the school campuses are only accessible via the intersection of TH 53 and Progress Parkway. This leads to hazardous traffic congestion at the intersection, especially during peak pick-up and drop-off times. Traffic backups on the busy 55 mph, four lane divided highway extend for a thousand feet in each direction every morning and evening.

St. Louis County has provided a solution to construct a secondary access road from the schools to the south, which will connect to TH 37. The new County State Aid Highway 142 (Progress Parkway) will be approximately 1.5 miles in length. The project will provide an opportunity to get to the schools from Eveleth and Gilbert without having to use TH #53 and create a critical second access for emergency response and traffic congestion relief.

Although this project is primarily a safety project, the new roadway will open up access to hundreds of acres of city owned and private land for economic development. The project has a regional impact, serving the cities of Eveleth, Virginia and the Rock Ridge School District.

The original appropriation was for \$6M to design and construct Progress Parkway from TH 53 to TH 37 with an expiration date of June 30, 2027. Phase I bids connecting TH 53 with the school and adding a roundabout have been opened and the project has come in under budget at \$4.6M. These funds will be expended by the original June 30, 2027 deadline.

We are requesting that a time extension be granted to June 30, 2030 so that the remaining \$1.4M can be used on Phase II of this important safety and economic development project, which will complete the construction of the new alignment south to the TH 37 intersection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.