

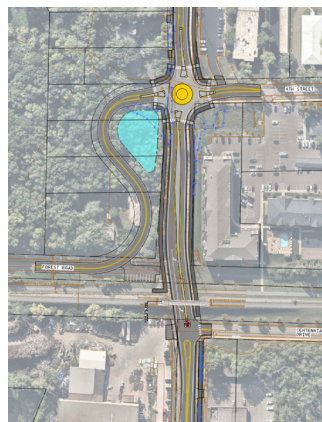
County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 32 (11th Avenue) Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project

The City of Forest Lake requests **\$4 million in state funds** to complete the necessary improvements along CSAH 32 and the realignment of Forest Road



Issue At-A-Glance

- Washington County is leading a reconstruction project along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 32 in the City of Forest Lake in 2027 to address poor pavement conditions, restricted access, lack of off-road pedestrian facilities, lack of stormwater treatment, and worsening congestion in the corridor. Currently, city-owned Forest Road is part of an offset intersection with CSAH 32 and Centennial Drive immediately adjacent to the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and was identified as part of a corridor traffic study for infrastructure improvements.
- This proposed project would widen CSAH 32 to include shoulders, curb and gutter, turn lanes, and intersection control. Pedestrian and bicycle facility upgrades include a grade separated trail to connect an existing gap between Trunk Highway 61 and CSAH 33 and a trailhead parking area for the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail. The project proposes to realign Forest Road to the west to connect with 4th Street and would include pedestrian improvements and a roundabout, improving safety, congestion, and circulation while maintaining full access to and from Forest Road and nearby affordable housing, schools, and parks. The new roadway realignment would be constructed on land that is vacant or for purchase from sellers who have been engaged during property owner outreach efforts and are willing participants. This realignment provides the opportunity to construct stormwater features that will provide treatment of drainage runoff before directly discharging into Clear Lake as it does now.
- The City of Forest Lake explored this realignment several years ago, but found it cost prohibitive. It emerged again during project engagement efforts as the preferred alternative with broad community support; however, it increases the city's cost share on the project beyond what it is able to contribute. Without state funding assistance the project team will need to proceed with a rehabilitation-only project as the City of Forest Lake cannot fund the safety, pedestrian, and environmental upgrades for this important regional facility.



Support

- Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
- Rice Creek Watershed
- Washington County
- Forest Lake School District 831
- Forest Lake Public Safety
- Clear Lake Association

No Action

If state funds are not provided, these improvements to access, traffic, and safety along CSAH 32 and Forest Road would be extremely limited.

Financial Implications

Washington County – \$10.2 million
City of Forest Lake – \$400,000
State of Minnesota – \$4 million

Total estimated project cost = \$14.6 million