

Via Email Only

July 23, 2025

The Honorable Erin Koegel, Co-Chair
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
5th Floor, Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
3107 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jon Koznick, Co-Chair
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John Jasinski
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation Committee
2227 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Design-Build Delivery Selected for Three Upcoming 2026 Projects

Dear Legislators:

[Minnesota Statutes 161.3412, subdivision 3\(b\)](#) requires the Commissioner of Transportation to notify the chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives committees with jurisdiction over transportation policy and transportation finance each time the commissioner decides to use the Design-Build method for procurement and explain why the method was chosen.

MnDOT decided to use the Design-Build delivery method for the \$300-400 million project on I-494 between the Airport and Hwy 169. This is the second major phase of the vision from the I-494: Airport to Hwy 169 Study. It will effectively continue the expansion and other ongoing work in the corridor. This work includes pavement replacement and rehabilitation, lane and access modifications, and drainage correction. The project is planned for letting in October 2026. Construction will commence in 2027 after the planned substantial completion of Phase 1.

Design-Build was identified as the appropriate delivery system for the project due to its large size and MnDOT's desire to utilize the contractor's expertise to assist in reducing traffic impacts and further improving the drainage and other solutions.

Secondly, MnDOT decided to use the Design-Build delivery method for the roughly \$40 million turnback project of University Ave. and 4th St. (TH 47). This project involves the reconstruction of University Ave and 4th Street and the reconstruction of their two bridges over I-35W before the roadways are 'turned back' to Hennepin County. The project is planned for letting in February 2026. Construction will commence in the second half of 2026.

Design-Build was identified as the appropriate delivery system for the project to allow the roadway and bridge projects to be let concurrently on schedule; and for the Design-Build contractor to add value to the traffic management and, perhaps, bridge designs.

Finally, MnDOT decided to use the Design-Build delivery method for the \$30-40 million interchange and overpass between Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue. This project involves the construction of a new overpass of Nicollet Ave.

over Highway 13 and associated tie-in work. The project is planned for letting in August 2026, with construction beginning in of 2027.

Design-Build was identified as the appropriate delivery system for the project to meet the schedule needs for the project funds and maintain project delivery timelines.

Please feel free to call the following programmatic and/or project contacts if you have questions:

Design-Build Program Manager:	Peter Davich, 651-366-4233
I-494 Airport to Hwy 169 Project Manager:	Greg Asche, 651-775-0855
University Ave and 4 th St Project Manager:	Ryan Coddington, 651-775-9867
Highway 13 at Nicollet Avenue Project Manager:	Lisa Daniels, 651-396-4402

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Daubenberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "Daubenberger" clearly legible.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E. (MN)
Commissioner