

Via Email Only

October 4, 2021

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, Chair
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
545 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Newman, Chair
Senate Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John Petersburg, GOP Lead
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
217 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
2213 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: I-494 Airport to Highway 169 Design-Build Project

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 has decided to use the Design-Build delivery method to design and construct the approximately \$320,000,000 project on I-494 between the airport and Hwy 169. This is the first phase (Project 1) of the vision from the I-494, which is the airport to Hwy 169 Study. The project involves the addition of managed lanes in both directions of I-494 from East Bush Lake Rd to I-35W, pavement replacement, the reconstruction of the I-494/I-35W interchange, new drainage infrastructure, access changes at Nicollet, Portland, and 12th Avenues, and many other items. The project is planned for letting in April 2023, although it may be advanced into 2022. Construction will occur in 2023-26.

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

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 Corridor Manager:

[Amber Blanchard](#), 651-234-7770

I-494 Airport to Hwy 169 Project Manager:

[Andrew Lutaya](#), 651-775-0855

Sincerely,

Nancy Daubengerger, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer