



I-494: Airport to 169

 Corridors of Commerce Project Limit  
 Study Area



# I-494: Airport to Hwy 169 Environmental Assessment

# Learn about the Environmental Assessment

- Review the proposed improvements and Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Comments must be submitted or postmarked by June 12, 2022



# Project Overview - Goals

## Goals

- Reduce traffic congestion
- Improve safety for all users
- Update infrastructure
- Improve drainage systems + reduce flooding and run-off
- Improve connectivity for pedestrian and bicyclists across Hwy 494

# Project Overview - I-494 Vision



**E-ZPass from Hwy 169 to Hwy 77**



**I-35W/I-494 interchange ramps**



**Access changes at Nicollet, Portland and 12th**

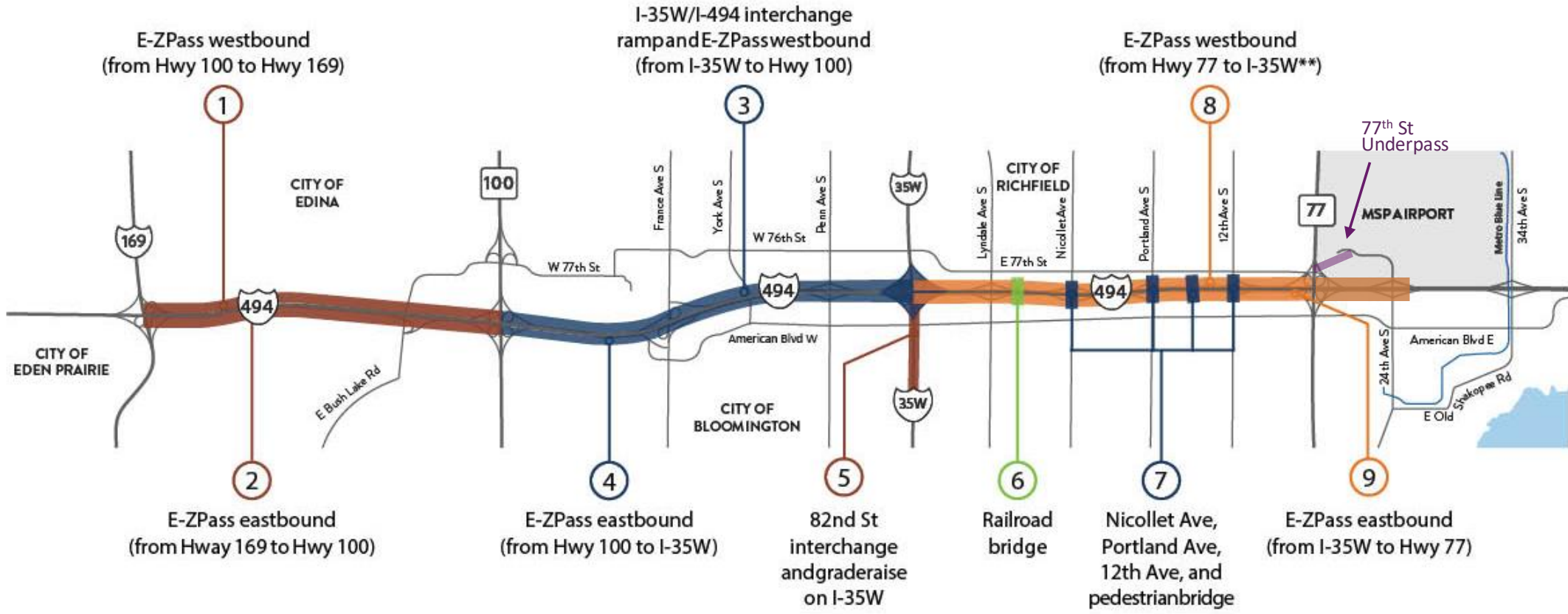
# Project Overview - Implementation Plan

**Project 1**  
Elements 3, 4, and 7

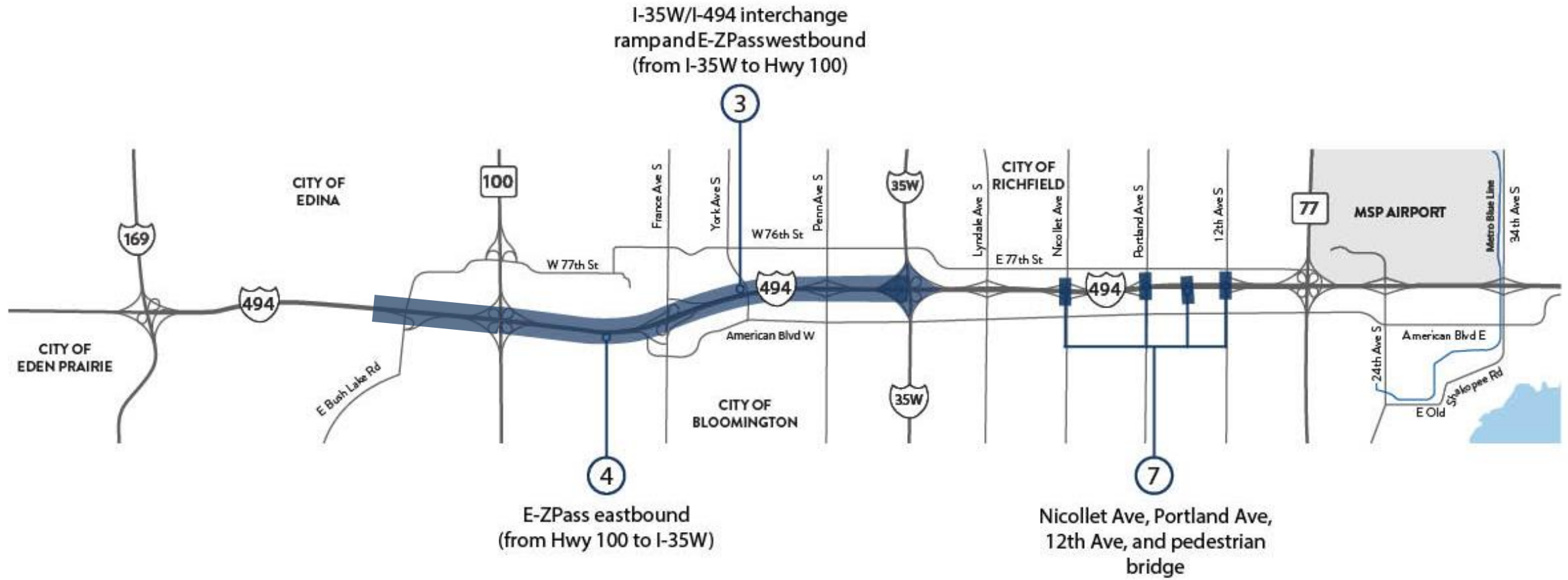
**Project 2**  
Element 6

**Project 3**  
Elements 8 and 9

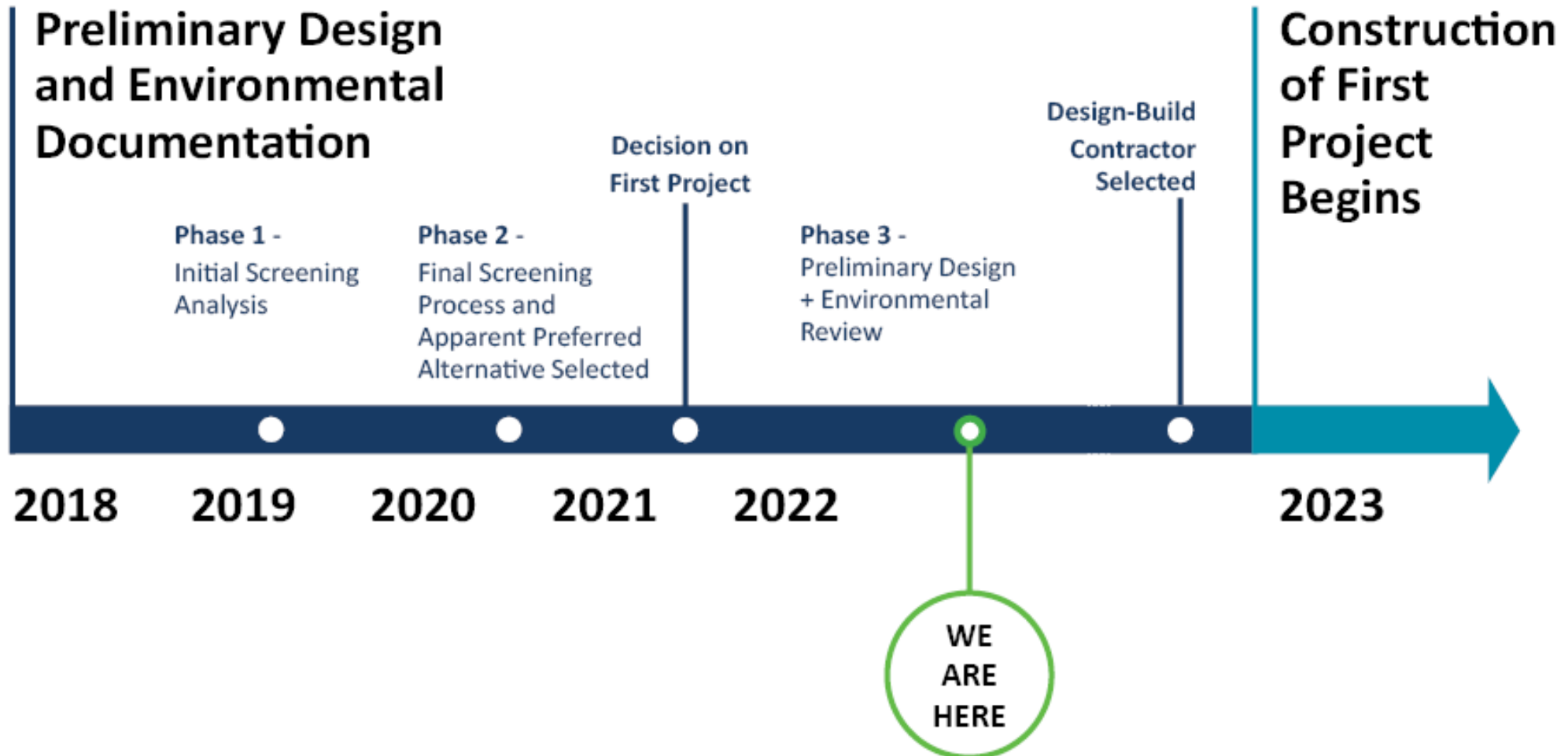
**Project 4**  
Elements 1, 2, and 5



# Project Overview - First Construction Project



# Project Overview - Timeline



# EA Document Overview

- What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?
  - Required by federal law to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  - Identify potential impacts to the natural and human environment
- Draft EA and technical reports are available for public review: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/ea.html>



# EA Document Overview

## Social, Economic & Environmental Factors



### Social Factors

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Land use & parkland
- Bike & pedestrian
- Cultural resources
- Environmental Justice



### Economic Factors

- Access
- Detours
- Right of Way



### Environmental Factors

- Vegetation
- Fish & wildlife
- Rare, threatened & endangered species
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Streams
- Contaminated properties

# EA Document Overview: Social Factors



## Social Factors

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Land use & parkland
- Bike & pedestrian
- Cultural resources
- Environmental Justice

## Noise

- Noise walls recommended in six locations

## Air quality

- Traffic volumes are projected below Environmental Protection Agency thresholds
- Dust control measures will mitigate for air quality concerns during construction

## Land use & parkland

- Roosevelt Park impacts along Portland Avenue

# EA Document Overview: Social Factors



## Social Factors

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Land use & parkland
- Bike & pedestrian
- Cultural resources
- Environmental Justice

## Bike & pedestrian

- Project includes improvements including better crossings of 494, a new pedestrian bridge and new sidewalk and trail connections
- Bicycle and pedestrian crossings will be temporarily closed during construction

## Cultural resources

- No adverse effect to any historic properties

## Environmental Justice

- No disproportionately high or adverse impacts to Environmental Justice (EJ) populations
- Additional EJ reviews will determine any changes along the project area for future construction

# EA Document Overview: Economic Factors



## Economic Factors

- Access
- Detours
- Right of Way

### Access

- Intersection improvements for better vehicular and pedestrian access
- Access to area businesses and neighborhoods provided during construction

### Detours

- Detours will be established during construction and adequate signage provided for alternate routes

# EA Document Overview: Economic Factors



## Economic Factors

- Access
- Detours
- Right of Way

### Right of way

- First Construction Project has 9.2 acres anticipated for permanent right-of-way from 55 parcels and 7.8 acres of temporary easements from 106 parcels.
- Five business relocations for the First Construction Project; no other relocations anticipated for the Corridor Footprint
- Redevelopment opportunities for remnant properties

# EA Document Overview: Environmental Factors



## Environmental Factors

- Vegetation
- Fish & wildlife
- Rare, threatened & endangered species
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Streams
- Contaminated Properties

## Vegetation

- Limited to volunteer tree and shrub species within right of way
- Areas to protect will be identified prior to construction

## Fish & Wildlife

- No substantial impacts or change to fish and wildlife habitat

## Rare, threatened & endangered species

- Northern long-eared bat and rusty patched bumble bee
- Ensure vegetation removal is outside growing/breeding season

# EA Document Overview: Environmental Factors



## Environmental Factors

- Vegetation
- Fish & wildlife
- Rare, threatened & endangered species
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Streams
- Contaminated Properties

### Floodplains

- Corridor includes acreage within Nine Mile Creek floodplain

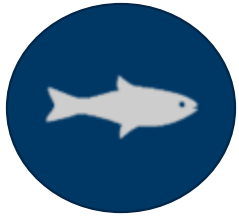
### Wetlands

- No significant impacts or changes to wetlands

### Streams

- South Fork of Nine Mile Creek is within the Corridor Footprint

# EA Document Overview: Contaminated Properties



## Environmental Factors

- Vegetation
- Fish & wildlife
- Rare, threatened & endangered species
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Streams
- Contaminated Properties

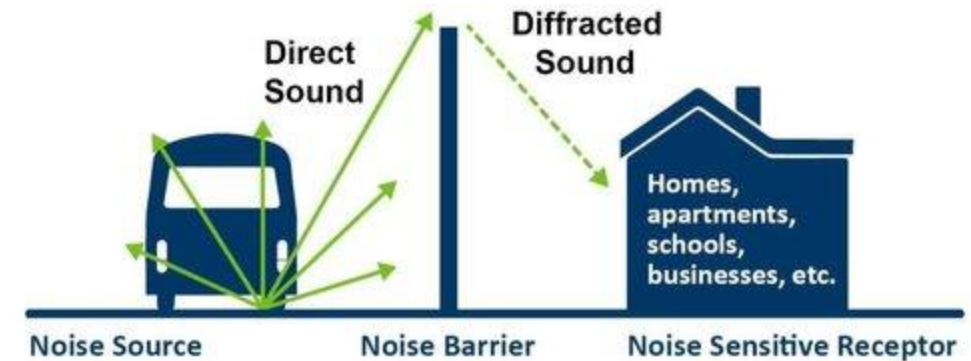
## Contaminated properties

- Identified 40 sites with high potential for contamination in the First Construction Project
- Special provisions and mitigation measures will be included in the construction plans for proper handling and disposal of contaminated materials to be protective of human health and the environment



# Noise Wall Process

- Locations for noise walls are determined by factors such as amount of reduction in noise, safety, costs and site features.
- Final locations are determined through a voting process of impacted property owners and residents.
- Voting process is currently taking place.



# How to provide feedback

Provide official comment  
in-person tonight

Or use these other  
options: email, online,  
voicemail or mail

**Comments must be  
submitted or postmarked  
by: June 12, 2022**



**EMAIL**

**[i494airport169.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:i494airport169.dot@state.mn.us)**



**ONLINE**

**[https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/  
/projects/i494-airport-  
hwy169/ea.html](https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/ea.html)**



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For more information



**Visit the MnDOT I-494 website:**

[http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/  
i494-airport-hwy169/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/index.html)