

# Pioneer Trail bridge reconstruction

## Open house question and answer summary

*Updated April 27, 2026*

Hennepin County, in partnership with the City of Eden Prairie, will reconstruct the Pioneer Trail bridge (County Road 1) between Settlement Drive and Highview Drive beginning in spring 2026.

Information about the project, schedule, trail impacts and detour routes was shared at an online open house on January 29th. You can view the presentation shared at the open house on the [project website](#). Below is a summary of the question and answer portion of the open house.

If you have questions about the project or construction activities, you can email them to John Ekola (Hennepin County project manager) at [john.ekola@hennepin.us](mailto:john.ekola@hennepin.us) or [transportation@hennepin.us](mailto:transportation@hennepin.us).

## Vehicle access

### For residents who live on Trail's End Road, what will the detour route be?

**Update:** Trail's End Road will be closed between Pioneer Trail and Explorer Trail throughout construction. The closure will allow for the reconstruction of the Pioneer Trail and Trail's End Road. Additionally, the close portion of Trail's End Road will be used for the storage of equipment and materials during construction.

### For residents who live on Highview Drive, what will the detour route be?

Highview Drive will remain open throughout the duration of the project. All traffic leaving Highview Drive will have to go west / all traffic entering Highview Drive will have to enter from the west.

### Will Settlement Drive remain open?

Yes, Settlement Drive will remain open throughout the duration of the project. All traffic leaving Settlement Drive will have to go east / all traffic entering Settlement Drive will have to enter from the east.

## Bike access

### What will the detour route for bikes traveling on the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail look like?

For bikers, walkers and rollers traveling south, the recommended detour route is to exit the trail on Highview Drive, take County Road 14 to Great Plains Boulevard, and then re-enter the trail at the access point on Great Plains Boulevard.

For bikers, walkers and rollers traveling north, the recommended detour route is to exit the trail on Great Plains Boulevard, take Great Plains Boulevard to County Road 14, and then re-enter the trail at the access point on Highview Drive.

### Will the Highview Drive trail access point remain accessible throughout the project?

The Highview Drive trail access point should remain accessible throughout the duration of the project. There may be temporary impacts to the access point, in which case a temporary access point would be created to allow bikers to use the detour route. Bikers may be asked to dismount their bikes and walk through the access point.

## Emergency services and school bus access

Will Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Fire Department (FD) and Police Department (PD) be impacted by these detours?

Project staff have been in contact with the Eden Prairie and Chanhassen EMS, FD and PD, who have confirmed the detour route is not a concerning length, and timely access to both the west and east side of the detour will be maintained. Eden Prairie and Chanhassen will be coordinating emergency response service, to ensure residents on both sides of the detour receive service quickly and efficiently.

Is the school district working with Hennepin County to reroute bus routes?

Yes, Hennepin County is notifying schools of the detour. Schools will define any bus route changes and inform families of these changes.

## During construction

Where will construction equipment and supplies be stored?

Staging of construction equipment will primarily occur on the east and west side of the bridge on Pioneer Trail Road, within the roadway closure area. This will not impact access to Highview Drive or Trail's End Road. At times, the equipment will be placed on the trail to allow for foundation work.

Will construction vehicles be parking on Trail's End Road?

There should be minimal construction vehicle traffic on local roads. Construction activities will be located on Pioneer Trail Road.

What is the repair plan for local roads?

Anything disturbed during construction will be put back at the end of construction. There should be no permanent damage from this project.

Is there any potential for the project going longer than 5 months?

Five (5) months is the current estimate for project duration. There is a chance the project could go longer due to variables such as weather; however, there is some contingency time for these variables built into this current five-month estimate. Any changes in schedule will be communicated to community members.

Who should community members contact for issues during construction?

Hennepin County construction staff will be overseeing the project during construction. Once County construction staff have taken over the project, their contact information will be posted on the project website. You can also email the general transportation email, [transportation@hennepin.us](mailto:transportation@hennepin.us), and your comments, questions and concerns will be sent along to the staff member who can best assist you.

## Bridge design

What materials are being used to resurface the bridge? Is it possible to use materials that would reduce noise coming from the bridge?

The materials used on new bridge are going to be similar those used on the existing bridge. There are two noises commonly associated with bridges. The first noise is from the tires moving along the bridge surface. This noise will be similar to the noise today, as there is no reasonable way to reduce this noise. The second noise is related to the bridge joints. On older bridges, debris settles into the joints, creating a “thunk” as cars drive over it. This noise will not occur with the new bridge due to its age.

How will water runoff be handled on the bridge?

Additional drainage structures have been added to the bridge which will improve water runoff.

Will a dedicated eastbound turn lane be added to access Trail’s End Road?

A dedicated eastbound turn lane could not be accommodated at this time due to limited space. Improvements to the existing westbound turn lane, along with wider shoulders and a wider median, should help in improving the ability to access Trail’s End Road safely.

The turn onto Highview Drive from Pioneer Trail is close to a hairpin turn and already dicey with vehicle speeds in the area, especially with the addition of a trail which adds walkers and bikers to the area - was this taken into consideration?

Similar to Trail’s End Road, a dedicated right-turn lane for Highview Drive could not be added. Due to the nature of bridge construction, there was not enough room to widen the roadway to accommodate a turn lane. However, the shared use path is barrier protected with a crash-rated concrete barrier, separating vehicle traffic from walkers and bikers on the path. This, in addition to the wider shoulders and median, should help reduce conflict between users on the roadway.

## Future improvements

Can you provide any more information about future improvements to the east of the Pioneer Trail bridge?

Not at this time. Hennepin County and Eden Prairie’s are aware of the sidewalk gap along Pioneer Trail to the east of the bridge. Improvements to the roadway are currently in the concept planning phase, and will move into the design phase in five or more years.

Receive updates on the project, construction, detours and any changes to the project schedule by signing up for email updates on the project website:  
[hennepin.us/pioneer-trail-bridge](https://hennepin.us/pioneer-trail-bridge)

