

News Release

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Nov. 1 groundbreaking ceremony kicks off Hwy 14 expansion, construction contract awarded

OWATONNA, Minn. – A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 1 east of Owatonna to mark the kickoff of the Hwy 14 expansion project between Dodge Center and Owatonna, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The event will mark the start of the nearly \$108 million construction project. The site will be at the cul de sac at 2300 SE 54th Ave., Claremont, MN 55924, east of Owatonna. The public is invited to attend. State officials have been invited to attend and speak.

The ceremonial first shovels of dirt for the project will kick off the project to expand 12.5 miles of Hwy 14 from two lanes to four lanes. This project will expand Hwy 14 from two lanes to four lanes between Owatonna and Dodge Center, to complete a continuous four-lane roadway between Interstate 35 and Rochester. The project is intended to improve the capacity, safety, travel times and access to Rochester and Owatonna, as well as the I-35 corridor.

MnDOT will send out additional information in the coming days on the event, as well as connect with people who are on the project's email list.

Shafer Contracting of Shafer, Minn., was awarded the construction contract for the Hwy 14 expansion project.

The bids were opened Aug. 21 and were then reviewed and certified. The contract award for Shafer's \$107,997,119 bid allows the contractor's team to begin moving ahead on the project. MnDOT is using design-build, a contracting process that brings designers and contractors together early in the detail design portion of a project. MnDOT uses the flexibility design-build offers to maximize the value received per dollar, utilize innovative approaches and deliver projects quickly.

Three teams submitted sealed bids. A MnDOT team scored the technical proposals and those scores were applied to the bids. The bids were: Shafer Contracting Co., Inc., \$107,997,119.16; Mathiowetz Construction Co., \$117,587,970.79; and MZH Constructors LLC, \$132,367,024.00. The results are at MnDOT's website at www.dot.state.mn.us/designbuild/hwy14/letting.html.

The first full construction season will begin in spring of 2020 and be completed by 2022.

The 2018 [Corridors of Commerce](#) project selection, which was based on specific scoring, included Hwy 14 among six other projects. There was a May 1 project selection and a May 30 project selection. The 2019 Legislature corrected language for the May 30 project selection, which allows this project to use funds to begin the project this year.

Hwy 14 previously received funding through Corridors of Commerce in 2013-2015, which provided funding for right of way acquisition along with a portion of the four-lane expansion from Hwy 218 to Steele County Road 43.

To learn more about the Hwy 14 project and sign up for email updates, go to www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14/. For updated road condition information, call 511 or visit www.511mn.org.

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