

Memorial Highway Frequently Asked Questions

Project Overview

What is the Mandan Memorial Highway Reconstruction Project?

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), in coordination with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the City of Mandan, is reconstructing the Memorial Highway Corridor between 46th St SE to E Main St. After construction, this section will be urbanized with upgraded drainage, city utilities, and roadway surfacing as well as comply with current intersection safety design standards.

Why do the improvements need to be made?

Memorial Highway is aging and not up to current design standards. Regular maintenance can no longer perform long-term repairs or ensure safe, smooth travel due to the age of the infrastructure.

Key improvements identified for this project include:

- **Sight distances and intersection alignments:** Some intersections and road sections do not meet existing sight distance standards. They will be constructed to meet current design criteria.
- **Drainage and culverts:** Many culverts are near the end of their useful life and shallow roadside ditches are not draining off runoff efficiently, leaving standing water.
- **Access to adjacent properties:** Access and driveways will be improved and turn lanes will be installed at key intersections to improve the flow of traffic.

What is the estimated cost of the project?

- The entire project is anticipated to cost a total of approximately \$119 million.

How was the public involved in the redesign process of Memorial Highway?

- The project team held multiple public meetings in July and September of 2019. Feedback from residents and stakeholders was carefully considered before finalizing the roadway design. The proposed design of the road includes safety improvements and brings the roadway up to current design standards.

Construction Details

When will construction take place?

Phase 1 will take place during 2025 and Phase 2 in 2026 and 2027. Phase 1 will construct the east storm sewer system and the segment of Memorial Highway from approximately 32nd Avenue SE to 46th Avenue SE. Phase 2 will focus on constructing the west storm sewer system and the segment of Memorial Highway from approximately E Main Street to approximately 32nd Avenue SE.

Both phases include replacing and installing underground utilities, constructing curb and gutter roadway sections with medians at major intersections, and adding bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Roadway lighting and traffic signals will be upgraded as well, and roadway drainage will be improved with the installation of a storm sewer system. Additionally, sanitary lift stations will also be constructed along the intersections of 32nd Avenue SE and 40th Avenue SE in Phase 1 and near 3rd Street SE intersection in Phase 2.

Will Memorial Highway be closed to thru-traffic during construction?

One lane of traffic in each direction with a center turn lane will be maintained throughout the duration of construction. Traffic control will be maintained in sections and the contractor will need to modify and adjust traffic control to maintain a safe working environment. Please stay alert to changes in traffic flow, as they may occur quickly as construction progresses.

What will the construction zone be like?

While the goal is to minimize impacts during construction, businesses and residents can expect the following:

- Equipment, materials, and construction crews along the corridor, including within existing right-of-way and easements.
- Temporary lane and road closures during certain phases of the project.
- Detours to help manage traffic flow.
- Temporary gravel driveway access for businesses during closures.

Certain property impacts are expected during construction and affected property owners will be notified in advance. The public can check for construction updates from project stakeholders, the project website, and *Mandan Messenger*, a monthly newsletter included in Mandan city utility statements.

Will the construction be loud?

Residents may notice an increase in noise during daylight hours throughout the course of construction.

How will you keep businesses and landowners informed throughout the project?

The project will utilize several methods of communication. Regular construction updates will also be included in *Mandan Messenger*. There may be additional one-on-one meetings with business and landowners to address individual concerns as construction progresses. Project information and update are also available at dot.nd.gov/memorialhwy and cityofmandan.com/mhp.

I own a business on Memorial Highway, how will my access be affected?

Two hard-surfaced travel lanes and a hard-surfaced center turn lane will always be provided; some temporary aggregate accesses may need to be utilized. If your existing access cannot be maintained, other access will be provided to ensure traffic will be able to get to your business. If there are concerns with construction, please contact Reede Construction at 605-971-0960.

Special Assessments

When will assessments for this project be on my tax statement?

Upon project completion in 2027, the earliest a special assessment amount would appear is on your 2027 Morton County Real Estate Tax Statement, which will be sent out in 2028.

I own multiple lots on Memorial Highway. Will combing my lots lessen my special assessments?

The cost of the project is distributed to all parcels in the street improvement district. Therefore, if costs are removed from a parcel, they are redistributed to all other properties. The engineering department is available to evaluate individual lots and explain the benefits each property receives.

How were the assessments for my property determined?

The properties surrounding Memorial Highway were broken down into two tiers. Tier 1 is defined as property with direct frontage to Memorial Highway. Tier 2 is defined as property that still directly benefits from the project and is within a quarter mile of the project. Within these tiers, there are subcategories for roadway, water and sewer improvements.

Tier 1 – Roadway Assessments

Roadway assessments are broken down into A, B, and C. The determination of A, B, and C is based on the size of the lot. The boundaries of A, B, and C were calculated by taking all lots into account and performing a calculation referred to as Jenks natural breaks optimization. The goal of this method is to minimize variations within a class and maximize variations between classes. The size contrast presented by the Jenks method is then compared to determine the variation between classes, which accounts for 50% of the roadway assessment by parcel.

The remaining 50% of the roadway assessment comes from frontage. The total frontage along Memorial Highway was combined. 50% of the roadway assessment for Tier 1 was then divided by the frontage to create a “per foot” amount. The “per foot” amount was then multiplied by the total frontage for each lot.

Tier 2 – Roadway Assessments

Roadway assessments are broken down into D, E, and F. The determination of D, E, and F is based on the size of the lot. The boundaries of D, E, and F were calculated by taking all lots into account and performing a calculation referred to as Jenks natural breaks optimization. The goal of this method is to minimize variations within a class and maximize variations between classes. The size contrast presented by the Jenks method is then compared to determine the variation between classes, which leads to the total roadway assessment by parcel.

Water and Sewer Assessments

Both water and sewer assessments are calculated based on units. Each of the following categories is assigned a unit. The total cost of the improvements is then divided by the total number of units and redistributed on a “per unit” basis.

Tier 1 & 2 – Water Assessments

The water assessment was broken down into four categories:

- 1) Service and Main – The parcel will receive a new service line and benefit from the new watermain being installed under Memorial Highway (1 unit).
- 2) Main – The parcel will benefit from the new water main being installed under Memorial Highway (0.75 unit).
- 3) Distribution Enhancements – The parcel benefits from the improved redundancy and hydrology from the new water main (*mostly Tier 2 parcels*) (0.5 unit).
- 4) No Service – The parcel does not have any existing water service (0 unit).

Tier 1 & 2 – Sanitary Sewer Assessment

The sanitary sewer assessment was broken down into four categories:

- 1) Service and Main – The parcel will receive a new service line and benefit from the new sewer line being installed under Memorial Highway (1 unit).
- 2) Main – The parcel will benefit from the new sewer being installed under Memorial Highway (0.3 unit).
- 3) Downstream Improvements – The parcel benefits from the improved redundancy and hydrology from the new sewer line (*mostly Tier 2 parcels*) (0.1 unit).
- 4) Separate Service Area/No Service – The parcel does not have any existing sewer service or is served from a different sewer shed (0 unit).

Are my assessments set in stone?

No, the special assessment process is very fluid and there are many steps that will be taken prior to assessments being finalized, including reviews by the city’s special assessment commission and the city commission. The engineering department is working closely with the NDDOT to provide the most up-to-date information for project costs.

Everyone uses this road, why are the on-corridor properties the only ones being assessed?

On-corridor properties are receiving a larger assessment, but the road portion of the project includes a city-wide assessment.

Contact Information

If your question was not answered please call 701-667-1033. If you prefer to e-mail, [please fill out this form](#).