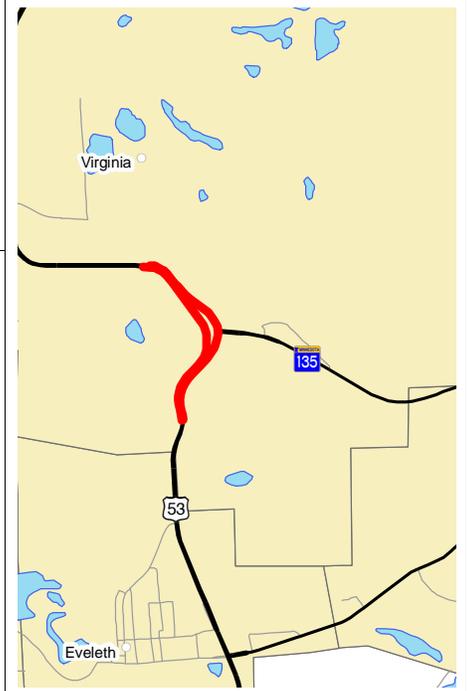


# PROJECT SUMMARY

Hwy 53

Between Eveleth and Virginia, relocate Hwy 53 away from United Taconite Operations

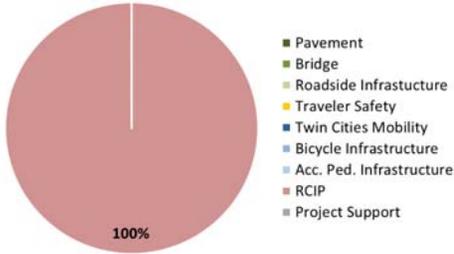
Bridge 69129, &, 69130  
State Project No. 6918-86



## Primary Purpose:

Regional & Community Improvement Priority

## Investment Category:



## Project Description:

The project is located in St. Louis County, between Eveleth and Virginia. The proposed project is to abandon Hwy 53 in the area of the United Taconite mine expansion and reconstruct it in a new location. State Project 6918-86 (which is also included in the 6918-80 project scope) is all remaining grading on Hwy 53 & Hwy 135, including a bridge on Hwy 135 over Hwy 53.

## Recent Changes and Updates

MnDOT has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the US Highway 53 Virginia to Eveleth project. MnDOT is recommending the E-2 route as the preferred alternative for the Hwy 53 Relocation project. It is the northernmost route with a 1,100-foot bridge across the Rouchleau Pit. EIS published Record of Decision October 5, 2015. Kiewit Infrastructure Company has been named the Construction Manager/General Contractor for the project with Parsons designing the bridge. MnDOT awarded a \$17 million dollar early steel contract. MnDOT expects to award a contract in November 2015 for the bridge and roadway work. MnDOT anticipates that the construction work will be complete in the fall of 2017.

## Project History:

In 1960 United States Steel granted MnDOT Hwy easement rights for Hwy 53. In 2010, the successors of US Steel, United Taconite and RGGGS Land and Minerals, in accordance with the easement provisions, gave MnDOT notice that they were terminating easement rights for Hwy 53. The easement expires on May 5, 2017.

## Total Project Cost Estimate (millions)

Date in which the project entered into the STIP: 2011

	<u>Baseline Est.</u>	<u>Current Est.</u>
Construction Letting:	\$ 60.0	\$ 166.6
Other Construction Elements:	\$ 13.8	\$ 10.2
Engineering:	\$ 14.4	\$ 31.1
Right of Way:	\$ 0.0	\$ 22.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 88.2</b>	<b>\$ 230.0</b>

*Construction cost estimates are adjusted to the mid-year of construction, using inflation rates provided by OTSM.*

## Key Cost Estimate Assumptions:

The original project estimate was a high level estimate for the proposed M1 alternative when the project was placed in the STIP. Subsequent engineering on M1 route has identified additional challenges on this route that increase the cost. Current risk based cost estimates for the preferred alternative ranges from \$180 - \$240 million. These estimates are being refined on a continuous basis. MnDOT is currently targeting a total project cost estimate of \$240 million based on what is known today.

## Project Risks:

Risks include an aggressive timeline for relocating the highway; securing a permanent highway easement, public utility relocation; geotechnical issues, maintaining water quality for the drinking water supply for the city of Virginia, a challenging construction environment, and managing traffic during the time between when the easement expires and construction is complete.

## Schedule:

Environmental Approval Date: Fall 2015  
Municipal Consent Approval Date: 04/14/2015  
Geometric Layout Approval Date: 04/20/2015  
Construction Limits Established Date: Spring 2015  
Original Letting Date: 04/24/2015  
Current Letting Date: 10/21/2015  
Construction Season: 2016/2017  
Estimated Substantial Completion: Fall 2017



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**District Engineer:** Duane Hill  
**Project Manager:** Patrick Huston

**Revised Date:** 12/15/2015