

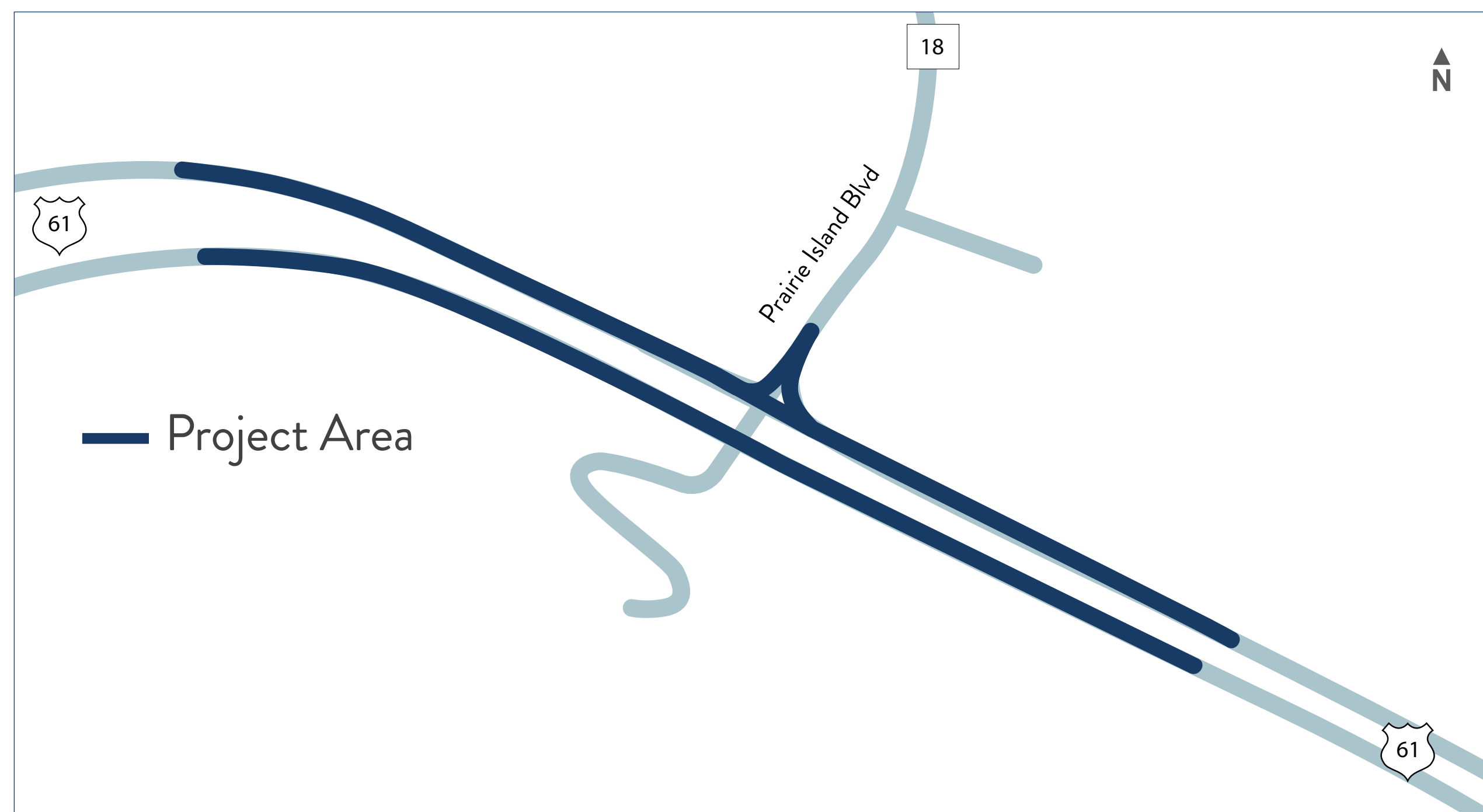


Hwy 61/County Road 18 Intersection Safety Project

OVERVIEW

Hwy 61 is an important travel corridor through Dakota and Goodhue counties, connecting commuters, communities and commerce from the Twin Cities to southeast Minnesota along the scenic Mississippi River. MnDOT evaluated Hwy 61 to identify safety and traffic flow improvements, specifically at the **Hwy 61/County Road 18** intersection. Constructing a reduced conflict intersection will:

- Improve intersection safety for all users**
- Improve ways to safely get to and from the highway**
- Shorten wait times and keep traffic moving**



PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Hwy 61/County Road 18 intersection has a history of left turn crashes due to speeds, traffic volumes and sightlines. During the project study and design phases, MnDOT and its project partners identified the following issues to be improved with the project:

- A history of serious right-angle crashes. Right-angle crashes, sometimes called “T-Bone” crashes, are often more deadly than other crashes.
- Difficulty getting on/off Hwy 61 during certain times of the day.
- A wide variety of roadway users, with many types of vehicles.

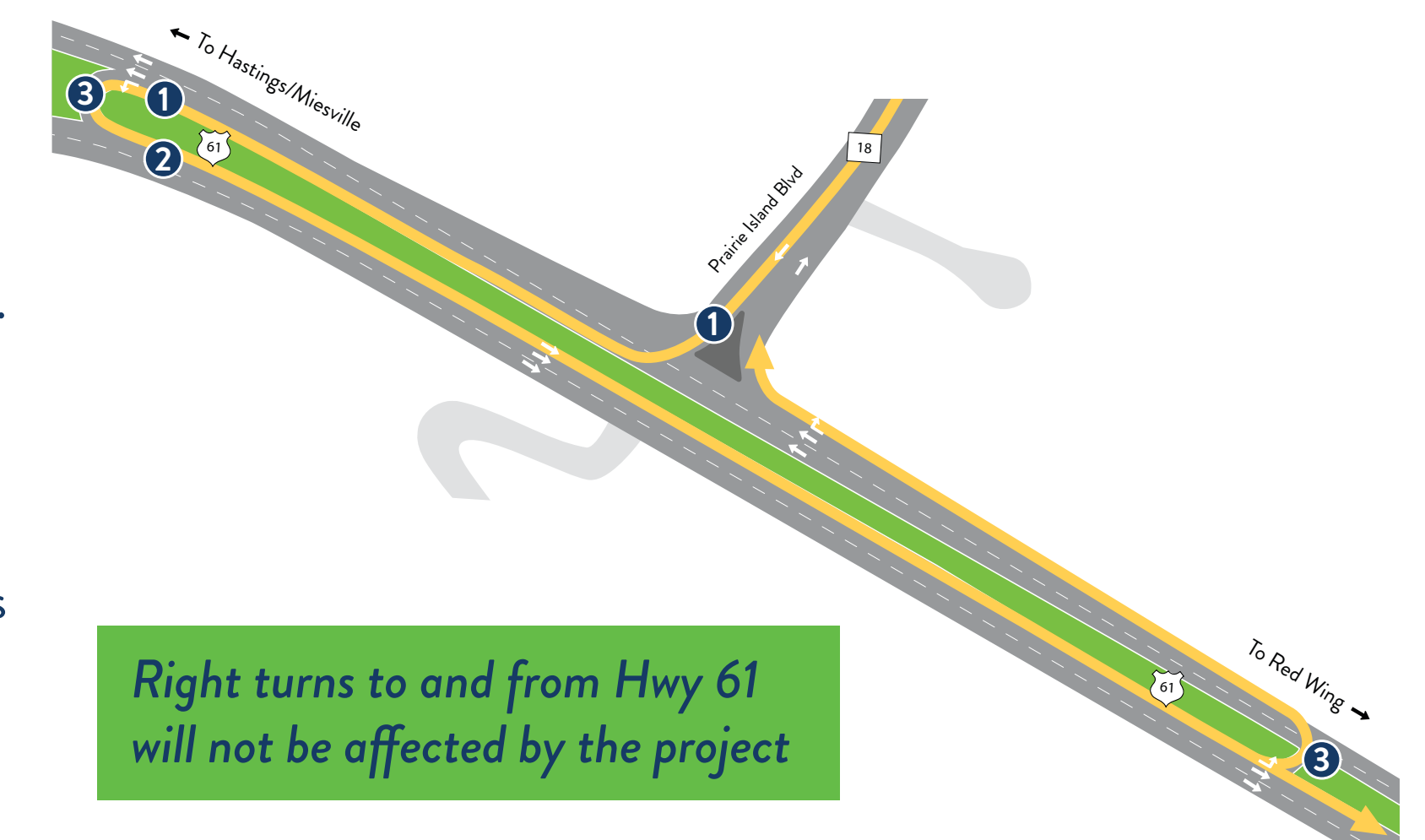
*To increase safety and better manage travel needs at this intersection, MnDOT is planning to construct a **Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI)** at the Hwy 61/County Road 18 intersection.*

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE REDUCED CONFLICT INTERSECTION

Today, motorists can drive through the intersection and make direct left turns from County Road 18 to Hwy 61.

Following construction, motorists will have modified turning movements for making the left turn:

- 1** To go southbound on Hwy 61, motorists will make a right turn directly into the median left turn lane at County Road 18, followed immediately by a U-turn.
- 2** An acceleration lane will be provided in the median for motorists to safely increase speed before merging into southbound Hwy 61 traffic.
- 3** The U-turn will be designed to accommodate trucks and large equipment turning completely in the median area without encroaching into the lanes of Hwy 61 or crossing high-speed traffic.



Access to Hwy 61 from Treasure Island Resort and Casino and the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant will change after project construction is complete in fall 2022.

CONTACT

- mndot.gov/d6/projects/hwy61-county-road-18
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CONSTRUCTION

STAGE 1

MID-JULY 2022 THROUGH EARLY AUGUST 2022

- County Road 18 just north of Hwy 61 will be temporarily closed in both directions for approximately 3 weeks.
 - **Detour:** Motorists will use Hwy 61 and County Road 31. See the detour route map.
- Northbound County Road 18 will reopen to traffic in August.



STAGE 2

EARLY AUGUST 2022 THROUGH EARLY SEPTEMBER 2022

- Southbound County Road 18 between County Road 31 and Hwy 61 will temporarily remain closed to through traffic for 4-5 weeks.
 - **Detour:** Motorists will use County Road 31 to access Hwy 61. See the detour route map.



ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

- Hwy 61 will remain open during construction
- Temporary lane closures on Hwy 61 near construction area
- Reduced speeds through the construction zone
- All businesses and residences will remain accessible during construction

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