

Email alert

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Construction of Highway 65 Reduced Conflict Intersections in Ham Lake, East Bethel begins Monday, July 23

Work on two of six RCIs on Highway 65 planned in 2018

After several years of planning and community outreach, we are finally going to begin a two-year project to build six Reduced Conflict Intersections (RCIs) on Highway 65 in Ham Lake and East Bethel. The first of this year's two projects gets underway Monday, July 23 at the intersection of 157th Avenue and Highway 65 in Ham Lake. Construction on the second RCI this year will begin the following Monday, July 30 at the intersection of 187th Avenue and Highway 65 in East Bethel. As work begins on the two intersections, we will need to close the Highway 65 medians and traffic will not be allowed to cross the highway. However, you will still be able to turn right off Highway 65 or turn right from 157th Ave. or 187th Ave. onto Hwy 65. A signed detour will direct motorists at both locations. Construction will wrap up at both locations by early October, 2018.

The remaining four RCIs will be built during the 2019 construction season at:

- 143rd Avenue
- 153rd Avenue
- 181st Avenue and
- Viking Boulevard. The RCI at Viking Boulevard and Highway 65 in East Bethel will be the first signalized RCI in Minnesota.

The project also includes lengthening the left turn lanes at nine locations between East Bethel and Spring Lake Park in 2019. All work on RCIs and turn lanes will be completed by fall 2019. Construction of Reduced Conflict Intersections (RCIs) and turn lane improvements will improve safety and mobility on the Hwy 65 corridor between 85th Ave. in Spring Lake Park and Sims Road in East Bethel.

In an RCI, drivers always make a right turn, followed by a U-turn. Motorists approaching divided highways from a side street are not allowed to make left turns or cross traffic; instead, they are required to turn right onto the highway and

then make a U-turn at a designated median opening. This reduces potential conflict points and increases safety. Generally, the delay caused by a signal is greater than the delay caused by the RCI.

For more information on the Highway 65 Reduced Conflict Intersections project, and turn lane extension work, a list of project locations or to sign up for updates, visit www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy65rci/. Additional information about Reduced Conflict Intersections is available at www.dot.state.mn.us/roadwork/rci/.

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