Rice Street

McCarrons Area Reconstruction

RAMSEY COUNTY

Overview

Ramsey County, in coordination with the cities of Saint Paul, Roseville and Maplewood, is creating a new design for Rice Street between Wheelock Parkway and County Road B. The road reconstruction is scheduled to begin in 2028. This initiative continues a series of reconstruction projects along the Rice Street corridor south of Wheelock Parkway and will be developed in coordination with Metro Transit's METRO G Line BRT Project.

Goals

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and access
- Improve vehicle safety and operations
- Improve pavement condition and mitigate flooding
- Ready the corridor for BRT transit operations
- Utilize partnerships and have a transparent process

Timeline

Evaluate existing conditions
Winter 2025 - spring 2026

Develop design concepts
Spring – summer 2026

Select recommended design
Summer – fall 2026

Refine final design and prepare for construction
Fall 2027 – early winter 2028

PROJECT PARTNERS:

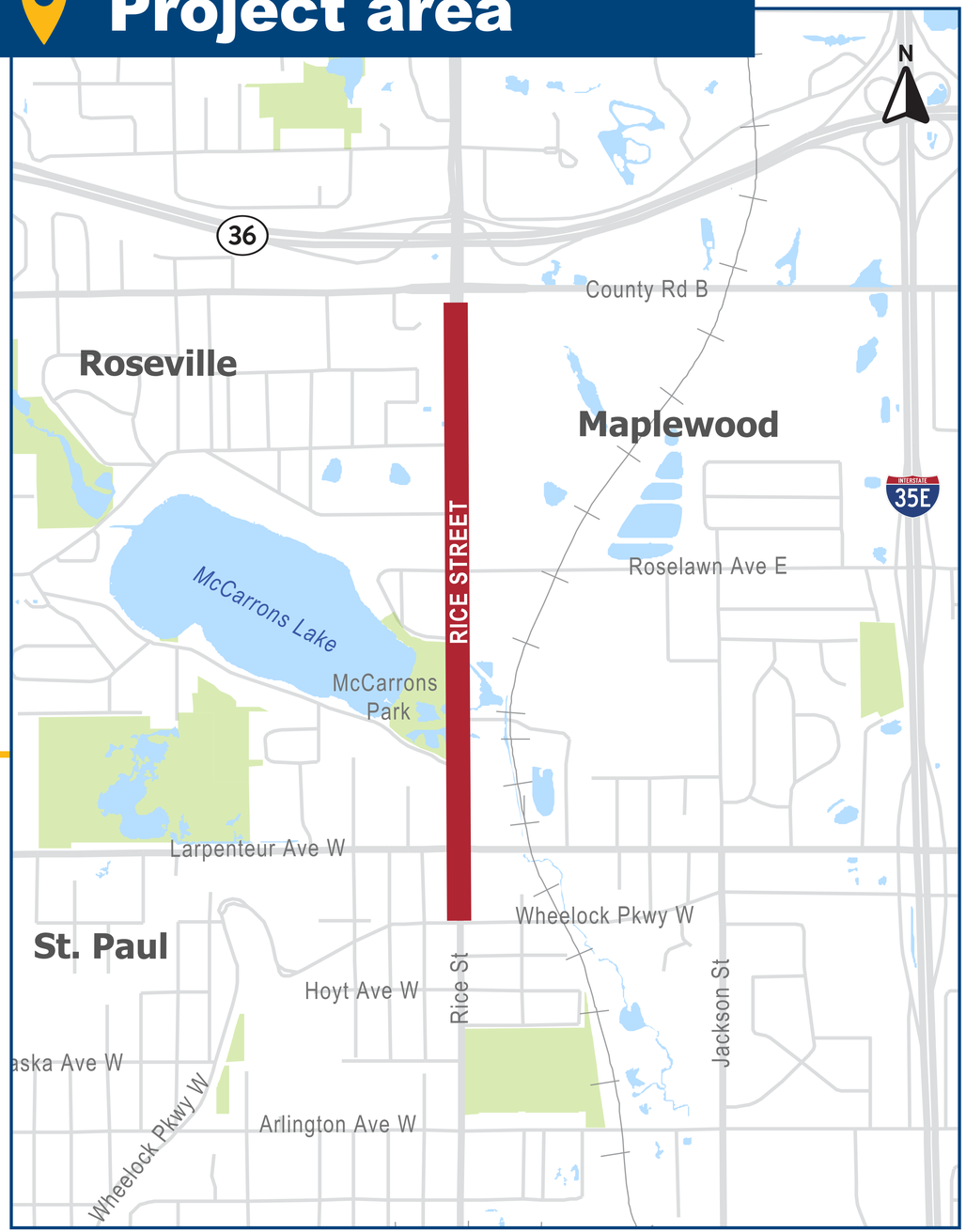
SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA

Maplewood

ROSEVILLE

Metro Transit

Project area



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Infrastructure tools to improve safety

Access management

One theme we heard consistently from community members is that there are too many driveways on this section of Rice Street, particularly near commercial areas. The number of driveways makes Rice Street confusing and less safe – for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists alike.

The project team will work with property owners along Rice Street to identify potential driveway accesses that can be reduced or eliminated to improve traffic flow and safety along the corridor.

Medians

Another way to improve safety is to add raised medians. Medians provide the following benefits:

- Help guide traffic into the correct lane
- Keep drivers from going around stopped or turning vehicles to prevent head-on collisions
- Allow pedestrians to cross one lane of traffic at a time
- Makes the road feel narrower to slow traffic

View the proposed placements for medians for this section of Rice Street at the map on the table.

Figure 1: Example of a concrete median in Rochester, MN

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Engagement Summary

From late January to early March, the project team shared project information and collected feedback using the following methods:

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE
15 attendees

ONLINE COMMENT MAP
35 comments

POP-UP EVENT
10 attendees

What we heard

Community members would like Rice Street to function less like a fast "through road" and more like a safe, connected "main street" with calmer speeds, fewer driveway conflicts, continuous walking/biking networks, and better crossings to parks, businesses, and transit.

GENERAL

- Desire for consistent bicycle facilities
- Desire for increased trees/greening along the corridor

"This roadway is extremely loud and hot due to a lack of tree cover…very unwelcoming"

NORTH MCCARRONS PARK AREA

- High speeds
- Pedestrians feel too close to traffic
- Difficult crossing at Trout Creek Trail

"High speed traffic is very common on this stretch of Rice Street"

SOUTH MCCARRON BOULEVARD TO WHEELOCK PKWY

- Too many accesses
- Difficult crossings, especially at Larpenteur Avenue and Wheelock Parkway
- Inadequate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including gaps in sidewalks/trails

"Nearly impossible for pedestrians to cross over to bus stop"

"Dangerous amount of turnouts from parking lots into a busy intersection"