



CARVER COUNTY UPDATE

JUNE 2025

CARVER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Highway 212 (Construction through fall 2026)

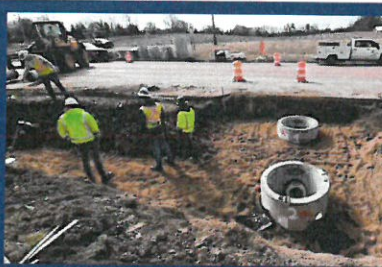
- **Construction underway** between Cologne & Norwood Young America.
- \$118 million project in partnership with local, state, & federal agencies.
- **Four-lane expansion:** Project expands Highway 212 from two to four lanes between Norwood Young America and Cologne, closing the last gap from Glencoe to the Twin Cities.
- **Active construction:** Bridge construction is underway and fresh concrete was recently poured. The bridge is expected to open to traffic in November.
- **Major closures:** Highway 153 is closed between Highway 212 and the railroad tracks. The Salem Avenue closure has been delayed due to weather and is expected to begin in June.
- **Grade-separated interchange:** A new interchange at Highway 51 will improve safety, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance freight mobility.
- **Regional significance:** Serves as a vital freight corridor for 22,000 square miles in southwestern Minnesota and South Dakota.

Highway 5 Improvements (Starting fall 2025)

- **Widening and safety:** Expanding from two to four lanes between Highway 41 and Victoria, with pedestrian and bicycle safety upgrades, including a new trail crossing.
- **Final design phase:** Project is in the final design stage, with construction scheduled for fall 2025 through fall 2027.
- **Community-focused:** Aligns with the Arboretum Area Transportation Plan to reduce congestion, enhance walking/biking connections, and support local destinations.
- **Public engagement:** Multiple open houses and surveys have informed design, aesthetics, and environmental considerations.

Highway 40 Project

- **Improving safety:** Targeting a high-crash area with sharp curves and narrow shoulders through slope corrections, shoulder widening, and drainage improvements. Construction is focused on a 4-mile stretch between Highway 25 and Highway 52.
- **Detours in place:** Traffic is rerouted via Highways 25, 14, 53, and 52 during construction.
- **Long-term corridor plan:** Part of a 10-mile corridor study, with remaining segments under design for future upgrades.



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- 360+ miles of fiber installed.
- High-speed internet for 1,400+ underserved rural locations.
- Extending coverage in rural areas, Chanhassen, & Victoria.
- 90 percent of rural construction completed.

COUNTY HEALTH & WELLBEING UPDATE

- Carver County stands out for its strong quality of life, reporting the lowest percentage of residents in poor health at 11 percent and among the fewest poor mental health days per month.
- 95 percent of Carver County high school students successfully graduate, exceeding both the Minnesota state average of 84 percent and the national average of 87 percent.
- 84 percent of residents pursue some form of college education, exceeding both McLeod County and Sibley County at 66 percent.
- Only 69 percent of residents drive alone to and from work, a lower rate compared to McLeod County at 80 percent and Sibley County at 79 percent.
- Carver County residents have an average life expectancy of 82.3 years, exceeding both the Minnesota state average of 79.3 years and the national average of 77.1 years.
- 25 percent of residents in Carver County are 18 years old and younger.
- Carver County has a homeownership rate of 82 percent, significantly higher than the Minnesota average of 72 percent and the United States average of 65 percent.

COUNTY UPDATES

Carver County Library Highlights

- Carver County Libraries had 1.5 million checkouts in 2024, with digital usage growing 25 percent and 46 percent of all checkouts consisting of youth print materials.
- All Carver County Library have officially gone fine free, joining all other MELSA libraries.
- Expanded virtual library cards to Eastern Carver County School District (grades 6–12) and soon to NYA Central Schools.
- New self-checkout stations reduce wait times and improve convenience, while mobile printing is now available at all library locations.
- The Summer Reading Program, which kicked off June 1, offers fun for families and kids, while the ongoing 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative promotes early literacy.
- New adult programs—including craft swaps, a seed library, and more—are available, with Friends of the Library book sales happening throughout the summer.

Regional Railroad Update

- In 2024, the Minnesota Valley Regional Railroad shipped 9,402 carloads, a 40 percent increase since 2017 and 70 percent increase since 2010. This line runs through Norwood Young America to Hamburg, to Gibbon and sent down to Redwood Falls.
- The Twin Cities & Western Railroad shipped an additional 26,502 carloads, the rail line runs mainly east and west through the cities of Norwood Young America, Cologne, Chaska, etc.