



Highway 61 – School Board Meeting MnDOT Metro District & City of Hastings

August 12th, 2026



Agenda

i. Project Overview

ii. Wall Design

1. Location
2. Height
3. Tie Ins
4. Impacts on stadium amenities
 - a. Ball catcher
 - b. Play clock

iii. Aesthetics

1. Wall design
2. Material options
3. Tunnel
4. Fence
5. Sidewalk and Bollards (update graphics)
6. HPC and Visual Quality Committee process and opinions

iv. Schedule

1. Design decisions
2. Right of way acquisition
3. Construction

v. Right of Way Acquisition

1. Right of way needs
2. Process
3. Ballpark Estimate

vi. School District Possible Costs



St. Croix Valley Limestone Buff Dimensional Panels



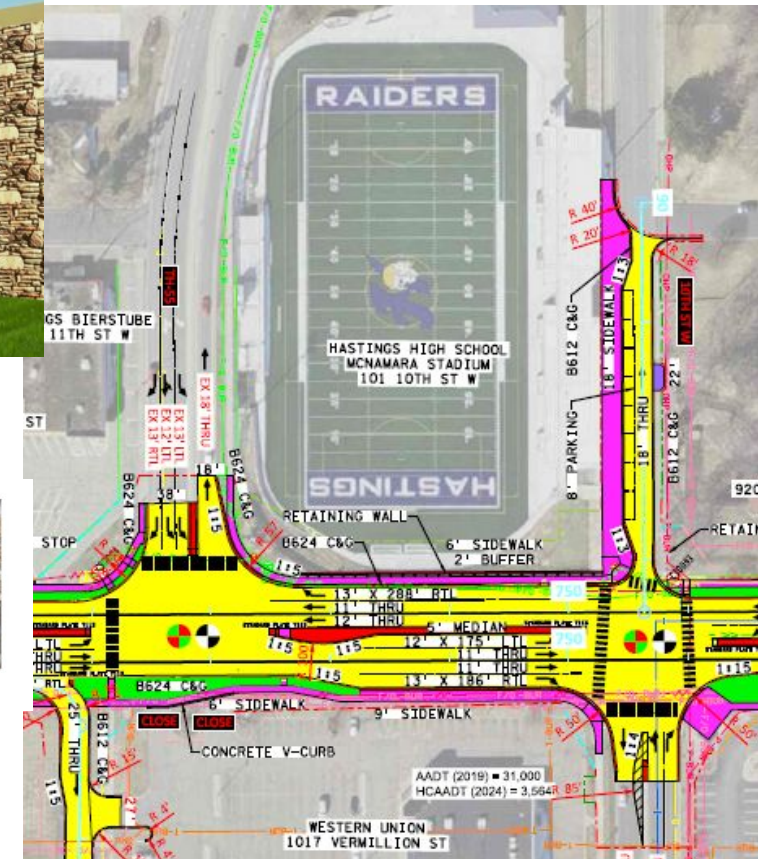
Stillwater Blend



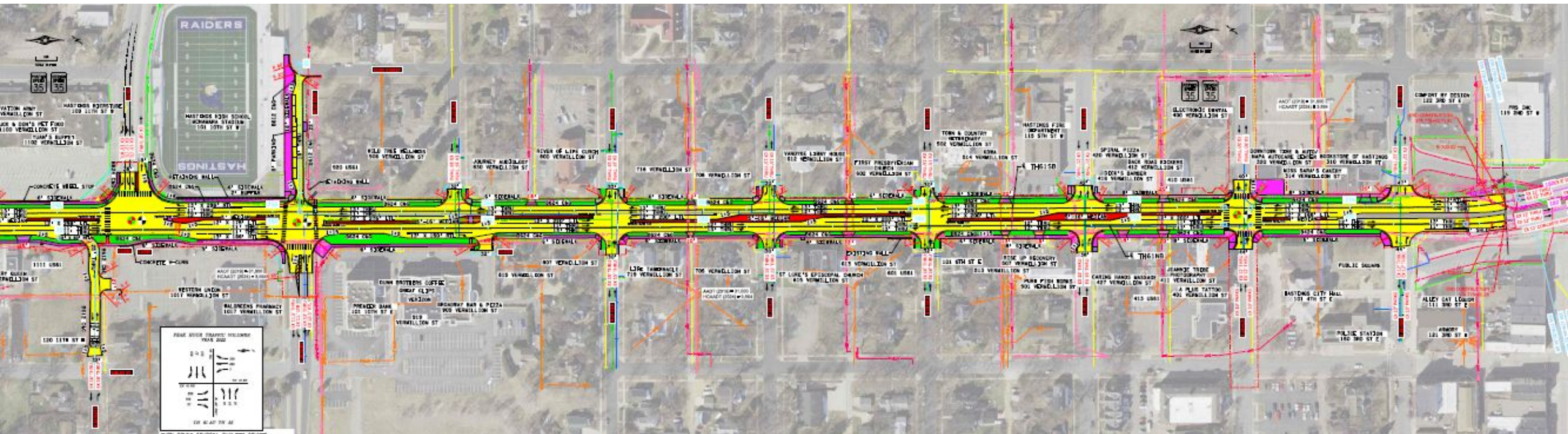
St. Croix Valley Cottage Blend



Stillwater Rustic



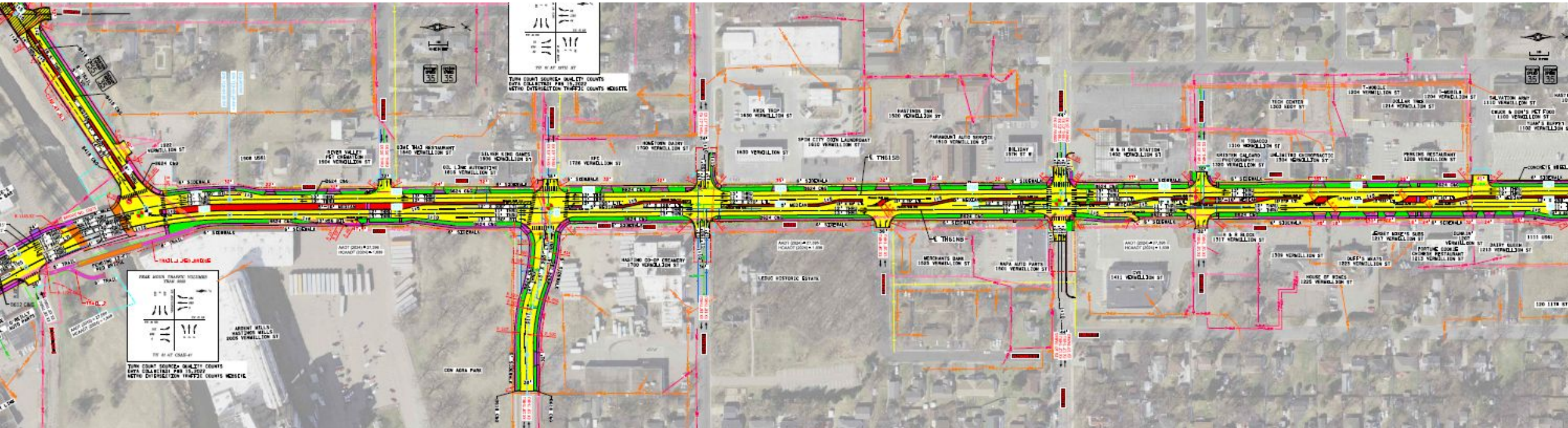
Project Overview



Phase 2 (2028)

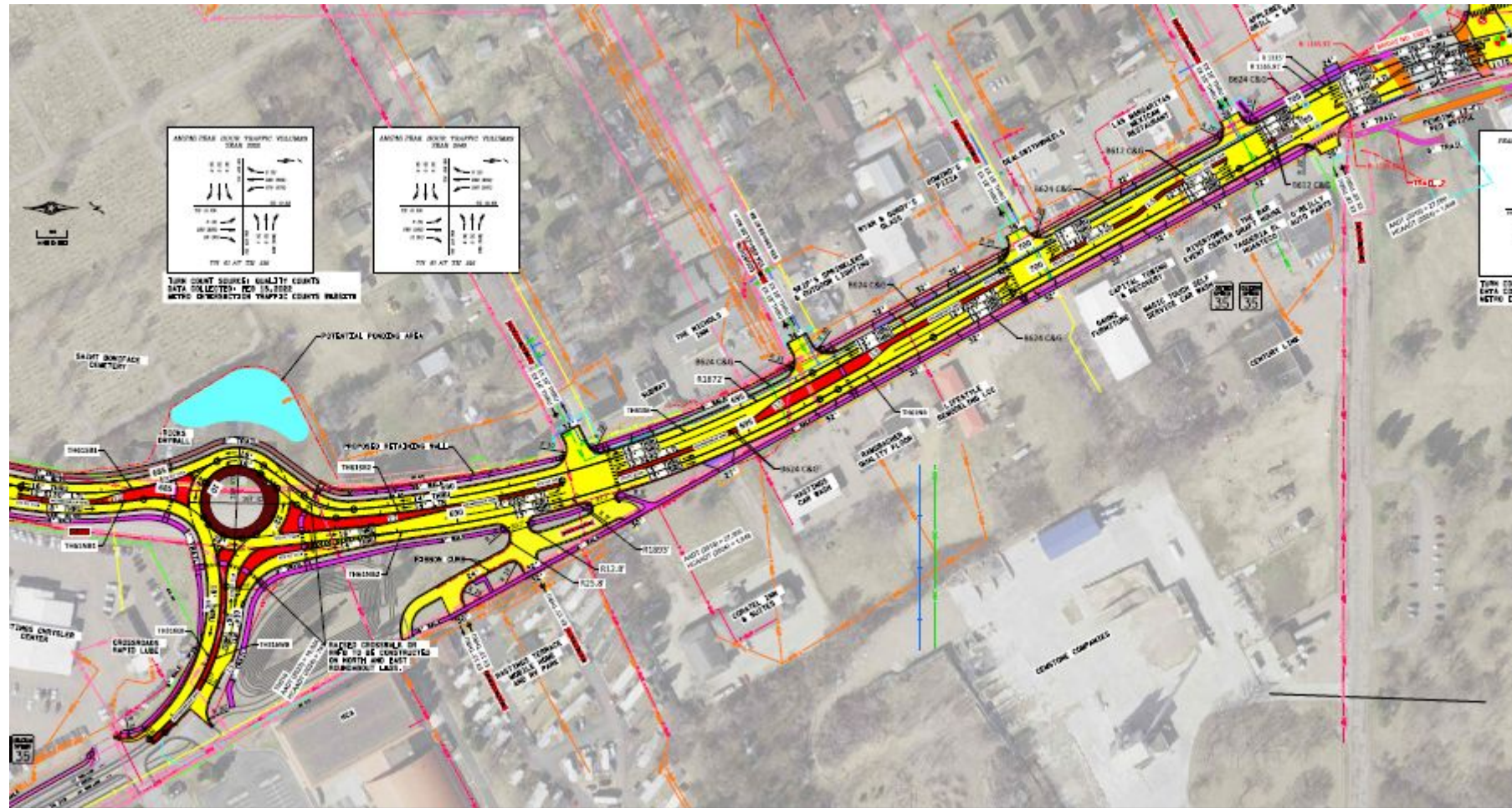
**Phase 1 would be an early work package (CM/GC) in 2027 with building x2 crossovers and a bypass and staging area and demolishing three houses at 316 RAB ponding area and tree removal in summer and fall of 2027*

Project Overview



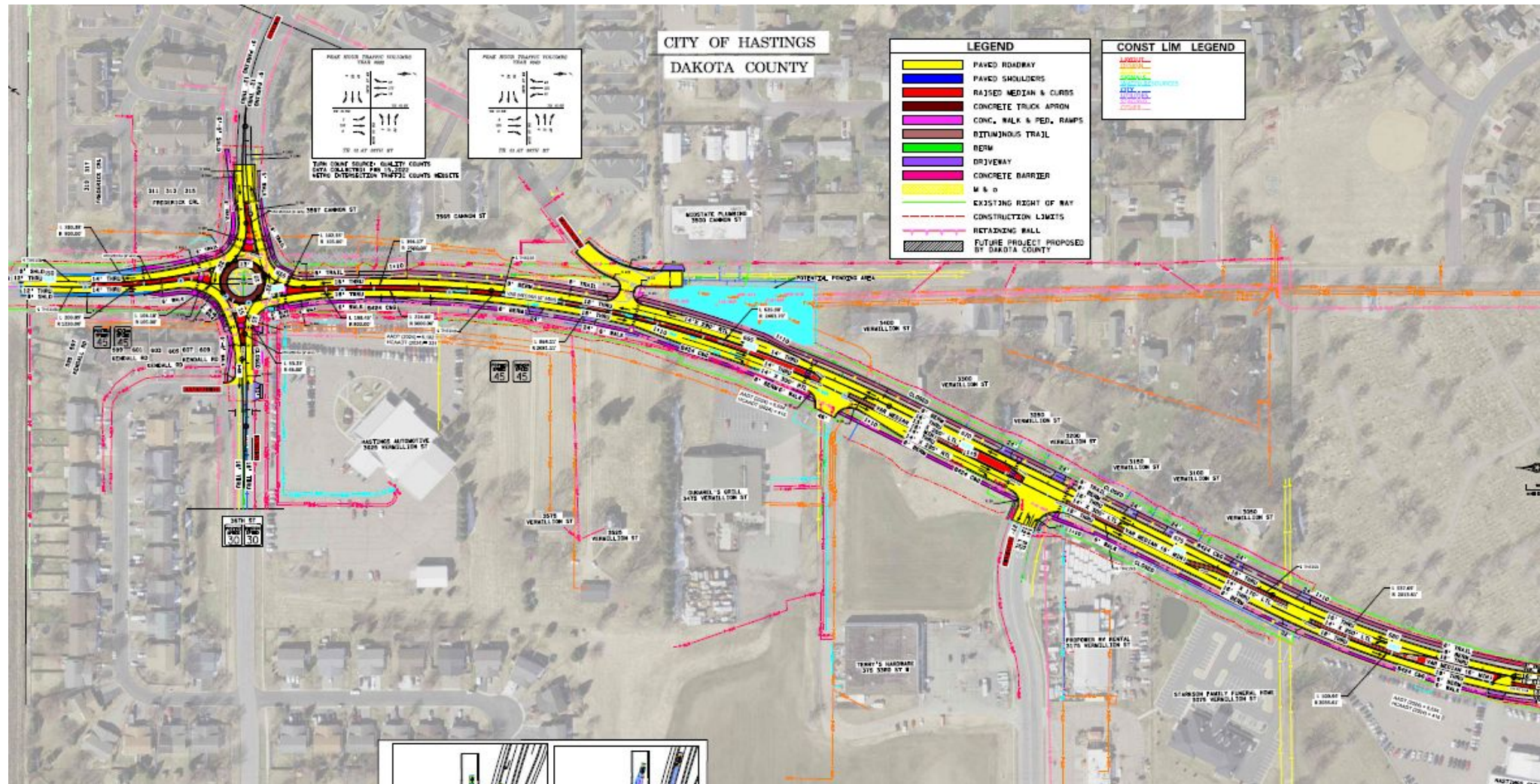
Phase 3 (2028)

Project Overview



Phase 3 (2029)

Project Overview



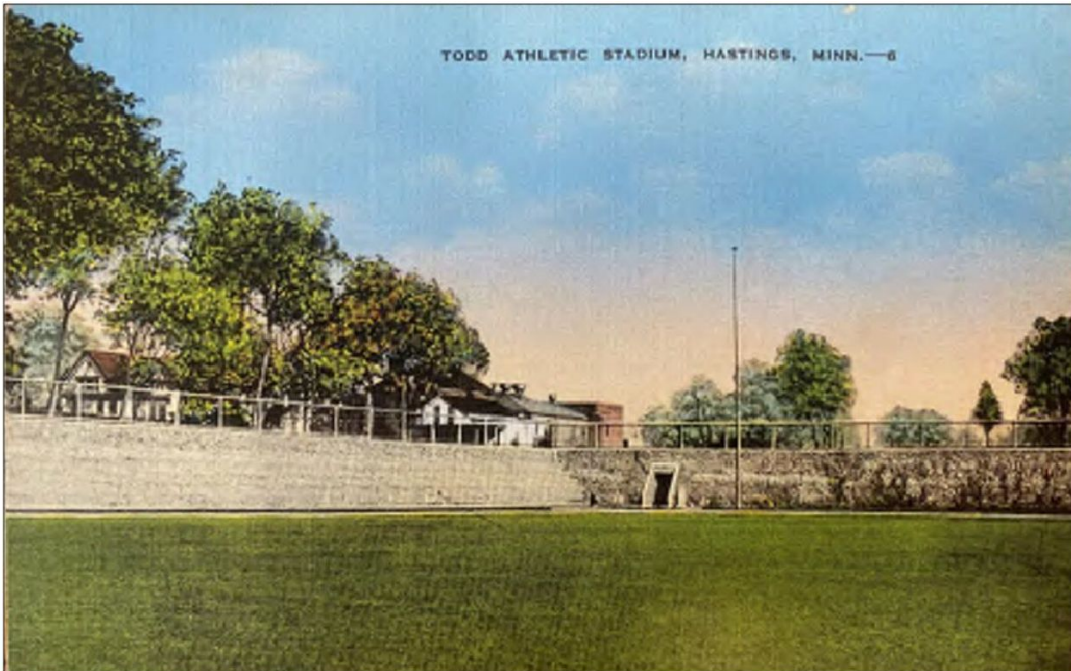
Project status

- Planning – develop the vision and recommendations
- Scoping/Funding – refine the vision and apply for funding grants
- Preliminary Design – turn the vision into engineering plans
- Final Design – how the plan will be built



Current Wall Design

Locally Designated Historic Resource



Designated properties not shown on the map:

707 1st St East	700 6th St West	1007 Sibley St
615 3rd St West	315 Pine St	Todd Field Walls
625 3rd St West	801 Pine St	18th St E- Mill Ruins
700 4th St West	1629 Vermillion St	1512 4th St East

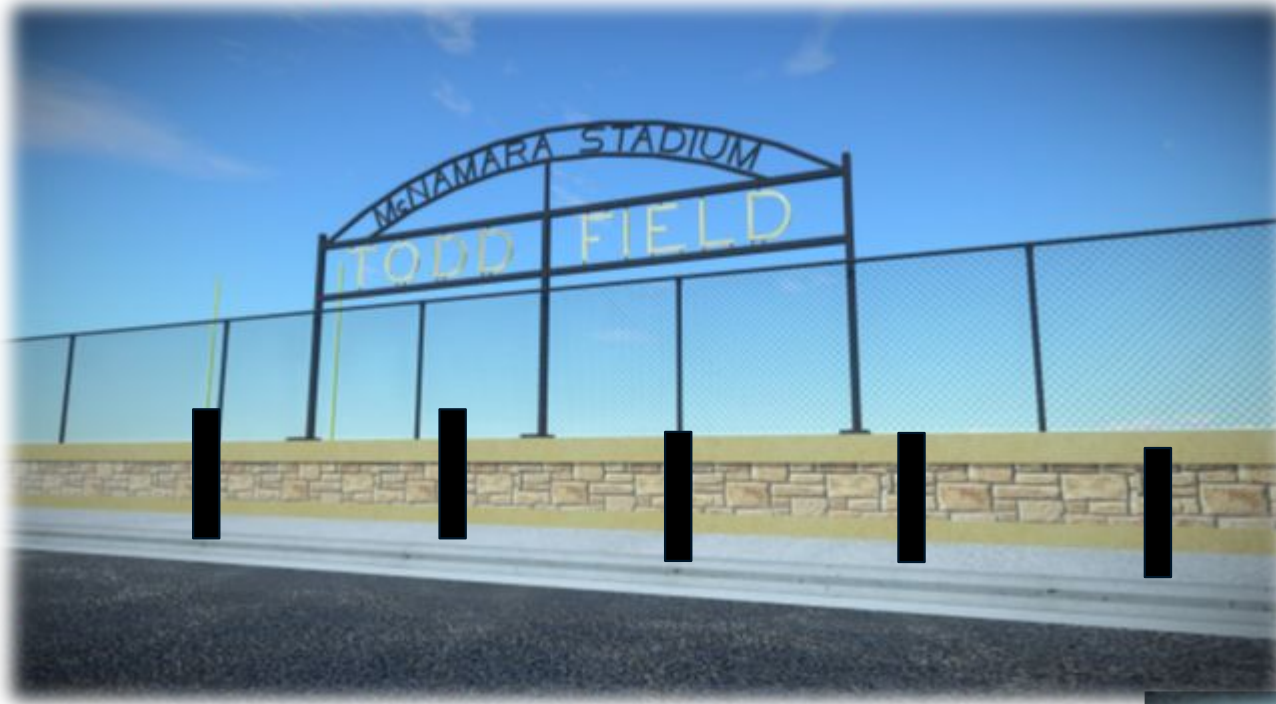


Aesthetics: Todd Field Retaining Wall

- Existing retaining wall at Todd Field must be replaced to accommodate ADA improvements and failing structural condition
- MnDOT is coordinating its replacement with the City of Hastings, School District and the Hastings Heritage Preservation Commission and Visual Quality Committee (along with MnDOT's Bridge Office)



Current Wall Design



Chain Link & Metal Picket Railing

Black Bollards at 8' intervals total of 25 at \$2K each with white reflective tape at top would be installed at city cost and city to maintain and keep snow free. City will have separate agreement with school on snow and ice removal here.



Stone Veneer vs. Formliner

Stone Veneer Options from a Local Supplier



St. Croix Valley Limestone Buff Dimensional Panels



Stillwater Blend



St. Croix Valley Cottage Blend



Stillwater Rustic



St. Croix Valley Hudson Blend



St. Croix Valley Limestone Web Wall



Landmark

Formliner Patterns from a Local Supplier

Urethane Patterns Stones



Ashlar Stone Other



Ashlar Stones Square



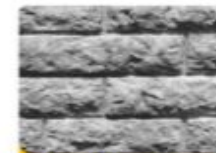
Cobblestone /
Fieldstones



Dry Stack

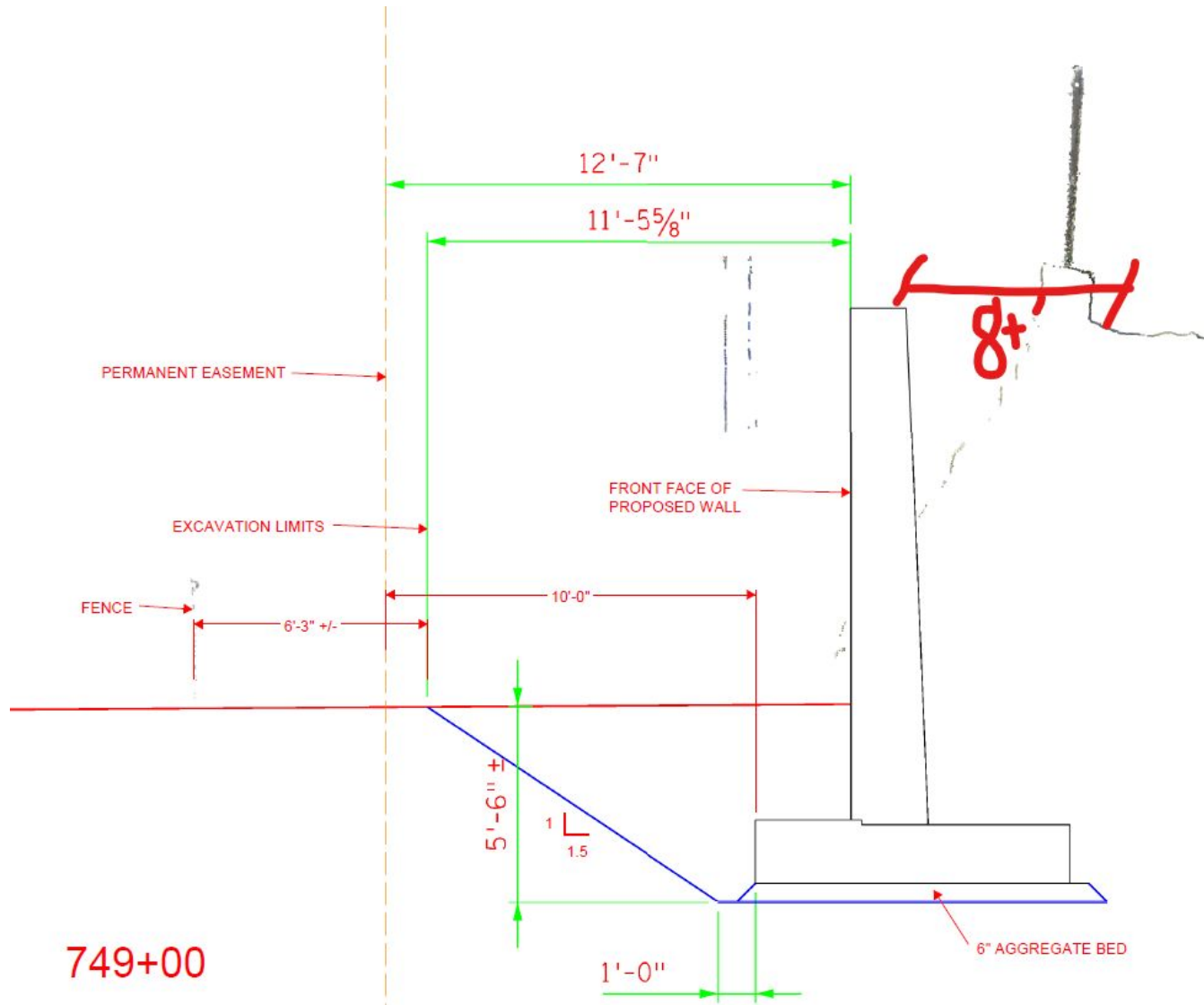


Miscellaneous Stone
Textures

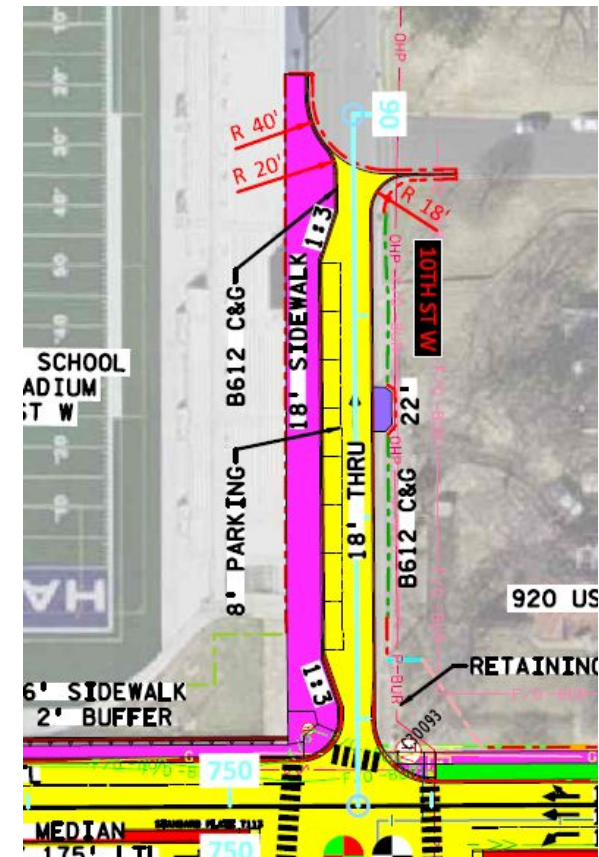


Running Bond Stones

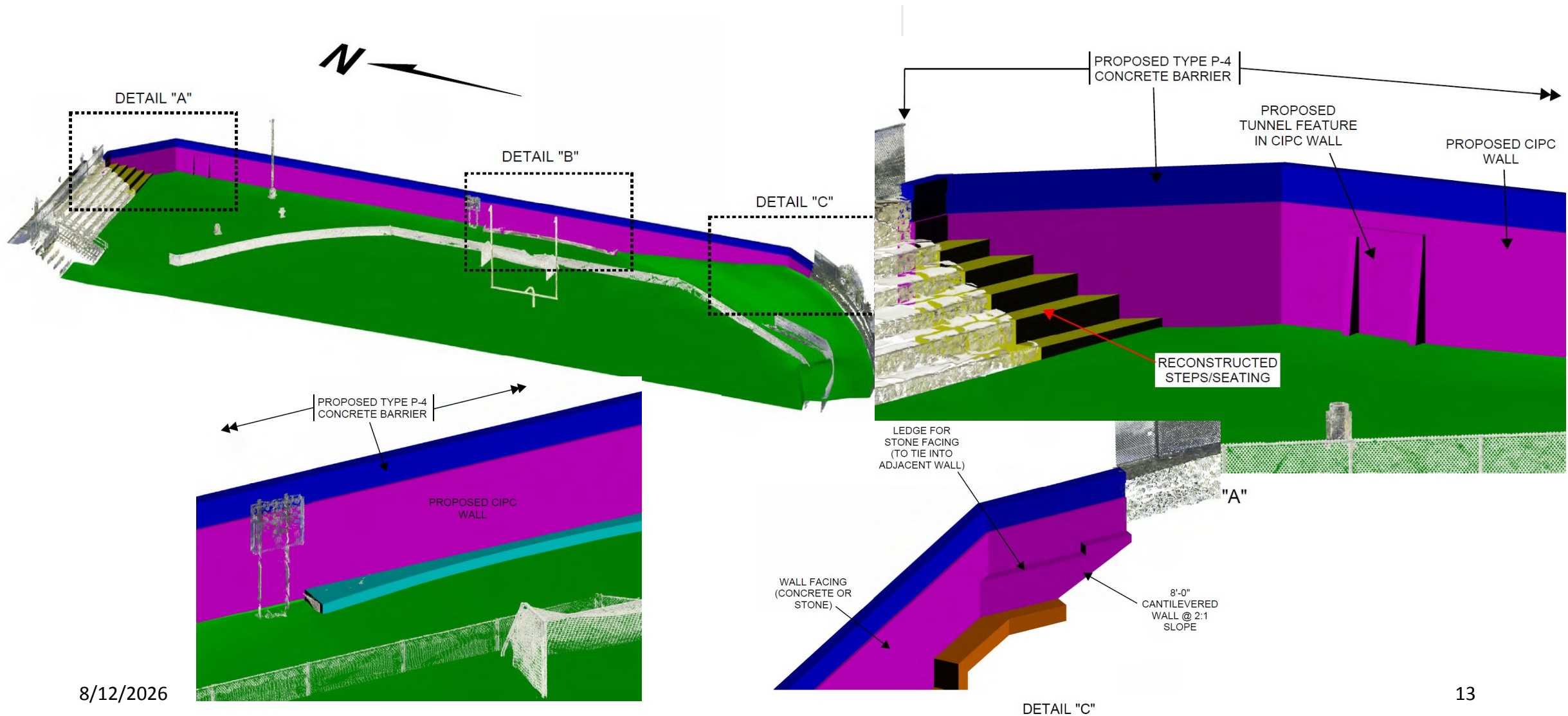
Todd Field Retaining Side view



Gaining at least 8' for more room for sidewalk, Ballards, and right turn Lane



Todd Field Retaining Wall 3D Model



Aesthetics: Costs at Retaining Wall

- MnDOT can expend 12% of the cost of the retaining wall budget on Aesthetics for the wall – City will be responsible for the rest and for maintenance of the wall aesthetics if hit. MnDOT will pay for basic structure maintenance.
- MnDOT will enter into a cooperative agreement with the city on wall cost and maintenance of sidewalk and Bollards and then city will have a separate agreement with the school.
- If Bollards are approved, there will be 25 black Ballards at \$2K a piece with white reflective tape installed at city cost.
- Ballpark estimate for R/W acquisition is still currently \$40K to ISD 200

Cost Information

Alternative	Cost Estimate	Amount over Base	MnDOT Share of Aesthetics	Remaining Aesthetic Contribution
Concrete	\$1,533,000	\$0	NA	NA
Form Liner & Stain		\$143,000	\$184,000	\$0
Stone Veneer		\$314,000	\$184,000	\$130,000



Aesthetics/Landscaping

- MnDOT will make corridor-wide enhancements for landscaping and streetscaping elements
- Trees, plants, furnishings and signs
- Recently formed Hwy 61 Visual Quality Committee will provide guidance



Right of Way Needs

- MnDOT will need to purchase right of way from ISD200 in fee to encompass the footings for the retaining wall (currently assuming 2' 7" from wall face, but wall type is under discussion)
- MnDOT will purchase another 10' of permanent easement for wall maintenance
- MnDOT will purchase temporary easement to the fence on the east side of the field to provide working space and access to the field
- Current ballpark estimate for right of way acquisition is \$40,000.

Right of Way Process

- MnDOT determine wall type and right of way needs – September 2026
- Field Title (agent visits site with staff to talk about impacts) – September 2026
- Appraisal – Late 2026 (School also has option to get an independent appraisal at MnDOT cost)
- Offer and Negotiations – Spring 2027

Next steps: Engagement

- MnDOT Business Liaison
 - James Schueneman, Goff Public (james@goffpublic.com)
 - Coordinates directly with the City of Hastings and MnDOT to ensure timely responses to questions and concerns
- Dedicated phone and email comment lines
 - info@hwy61hastings.com
 - 651-252-4843
- Business & community engagement events and pop-ups
- Fall public meeting
- Hwy 61: Open For Business group – open to all Hastings businesses

Next steps: Funding & consent

- Municipal consent process
- Current construction estimate: \$64M
- Current funding: \$21.7M (\$3M ADA and \$9M City Utility +METC)
- Funding pursuits: (approx. \$28M funding Gap)
 - INFRA grant (TBD)
 - Safe Streets for All (TBD) / Local Partnership Program (\$1.3M)
- Options if not fully funded:
 - Build project in segments as funding becomes available
 - Scale back scope

Next steps: Project delivery

- Final design
 - Finalize approach to traffic control during construction
 - Constructability reviews with CMGC
 - Coordinate utilities design with City
 - Refine construction estimates
 - Milestones:
 - 60% plans in November 2026
 - 100% plans in September 2027
 - Letting in January 2028

Next steps: Construction

- Stage 1 – Fall 2027
 - Minor preparation work
- Stage 2 – 2028
 - Northbound Lanes
- Stage 3 – 2029
 - Start wall in February or March
 - Southbound Lanes
- Stage 4 – 2029
 - Medians
- Roundabouts and segment from 36th St to Hwy 316 timing is to be determined in conjunction with one of the stages noted.

- Meetings with MnDOT to collaborate on wall design and potential impacts – virtually no cost (part of all our jobs)
- Ball Catcher System – no estimate obtained yet
- All Aesthetics will be at State and City cost since on State R/W (but up to city and school separate talks if anything further is involved)

Questions?

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mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy61hastings/index.html