



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

6A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: 10-14-25

Title of Item: 2026-2030 Capital Road Improvement Plan

☒ REGULAR AGENDA ☐ CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: ☐ Approve/Deny Motion ☐ Adopt Resolution (attach draft) ☐ Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i> ☐ Direction Requested ☒ Discussion Item ☐ Information Only	
Submitted by: John Welle		Department: Highway Department
Presenter (Name and Title): John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer		Estimated Time Needed: 25 minutes
Summary of Issue: The Aitkin County 5-year capital road improvement plan is updated annually through the budget process. The proposed attached 2026-2030 Capital Road Improvement Plan will be presented for discussion.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: NA		
Recommended Action/Motion: Discussion only, for future action.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? ☐ Yes ☐ No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No Please Explain:		

Project Selection Process

Identified improvements fall into one of five construction categories. Those categories, listed in priority order are as follows.

1. Highway Safety Improvement Program
2. Bridge Replacement
3. Pavement Resurfacing/Shoulder Widening
4. Gravel Road Reconstruction to Paved Road Standards
4. Gravel Road Improvement

1. Highway Safety Improvement Program

Safety Improvements are selected based on the Aitkin County Highway Safety Plan and available HSIP funding.

2. Bridge Replacement

Bridge replacement projects are selected based on calculated condition ratings that are the result of bridge safety inspections conducted on each bridge under the County's jurisdiction. See attached listing of all local highway bridges in Aitkin County. Highlighted bridges on the attachment are included in the current 5-year capital improvement program.

3. Pavement Resurfacing/Shoulder Widening

Pavement resurfacing projects are selected based on pavement condition data collected on a two-year frequency. In addition, observed pavement conditions and geographical grouping of projects for lower construction costs are considered when scheduling resurfacing projects. See attached listing of all Aitkin County pavement segments. Highlighted segments on the attachment are included in the current 5-year capital improvement program.

The specific type of pavement resurfacing project is determined during the design stage of the project based on the project's individual characteristics. Chipseal, overlay, mill and overlay, reclaim and pave, and cold in-place recycle are included in this construction category.

For segments that have deficient shoulder width, slopes, or culverts, additional work to correct these deficiencies may be added to the resurfacing project.

4. Gravel Road Reconstruction to Paved Road Standards

Improvements of existing gravel-surfaced roads to paved road standards are selected based on a prioritization worksheet that ranks the various gravel road segments based on annual average daily traffic (AADT) count, residence density, functional classification, sight distance deficiencies, improved route system layout, and private land ownership. The resulting priority ratings are updated with each Capital Road Improvement Plan update. See attached priority rating worksheet. Highlighted segments on the attachment are included in the current 5-year capital improvement program.

5. Gravel Road Improvement

Improvements to existing gravel-surfaced roads to gravel road standards are selected based on observed deficiencies of gravel road segments.

System-Wide Safety Strategies

1. Rural Intersection Lighting

- Provide lighting for intersections that meet traffic count thresholds
- 19 intersections meet criteria and have lighting installed

2. Chevron Signing Improvements

- Provide chevron signage for curves on improved highways that meet criteria
- 160 curves meet criteria and have signs installed

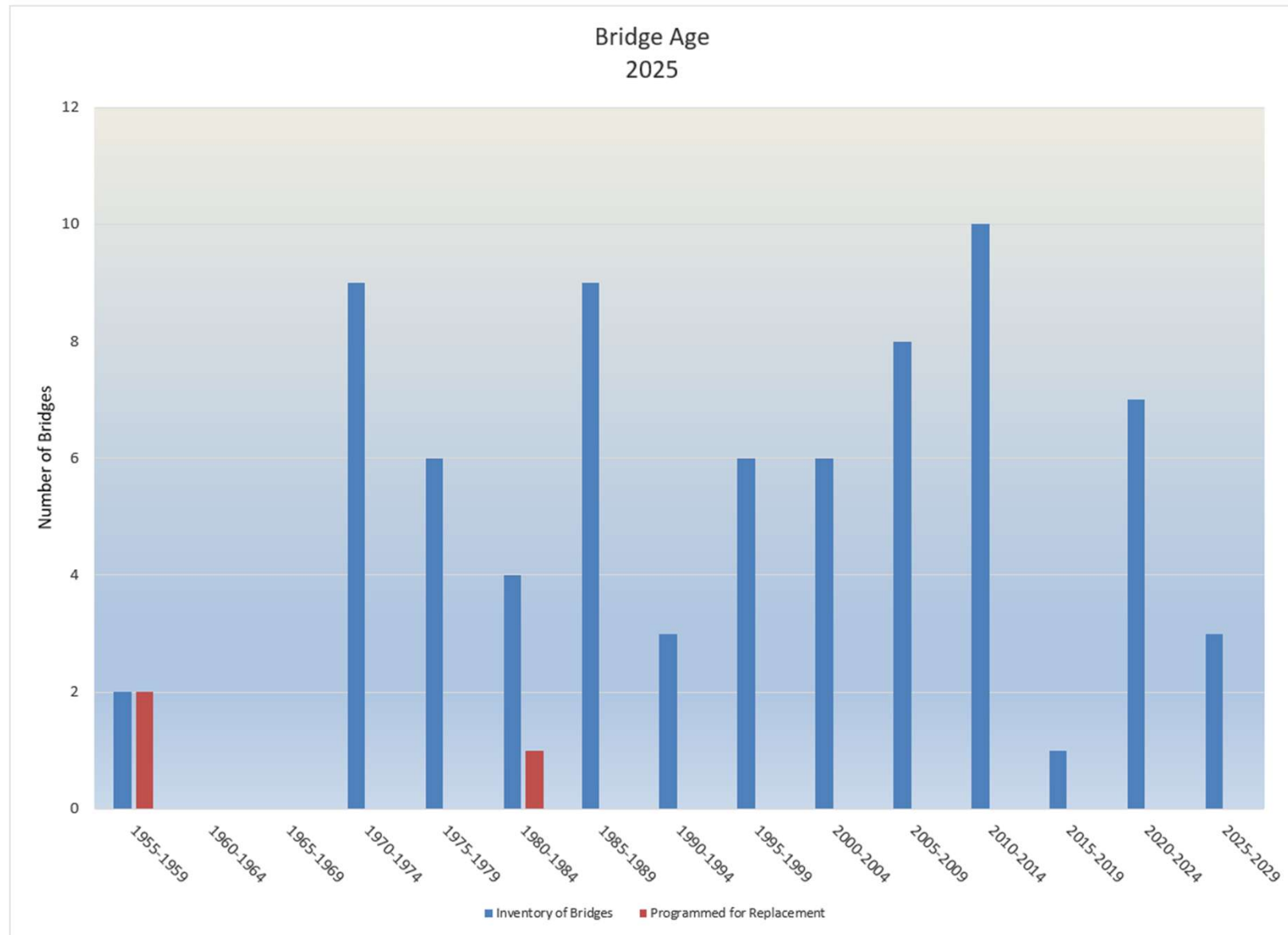
3. Enhanced Pavement Lane Markings

- Provide 6" ground-in wet reflective edge line and 6" centerline marking on segments that meet criteria
- 131 miles meet criteria, 104 miles have enhanced lane markings installed

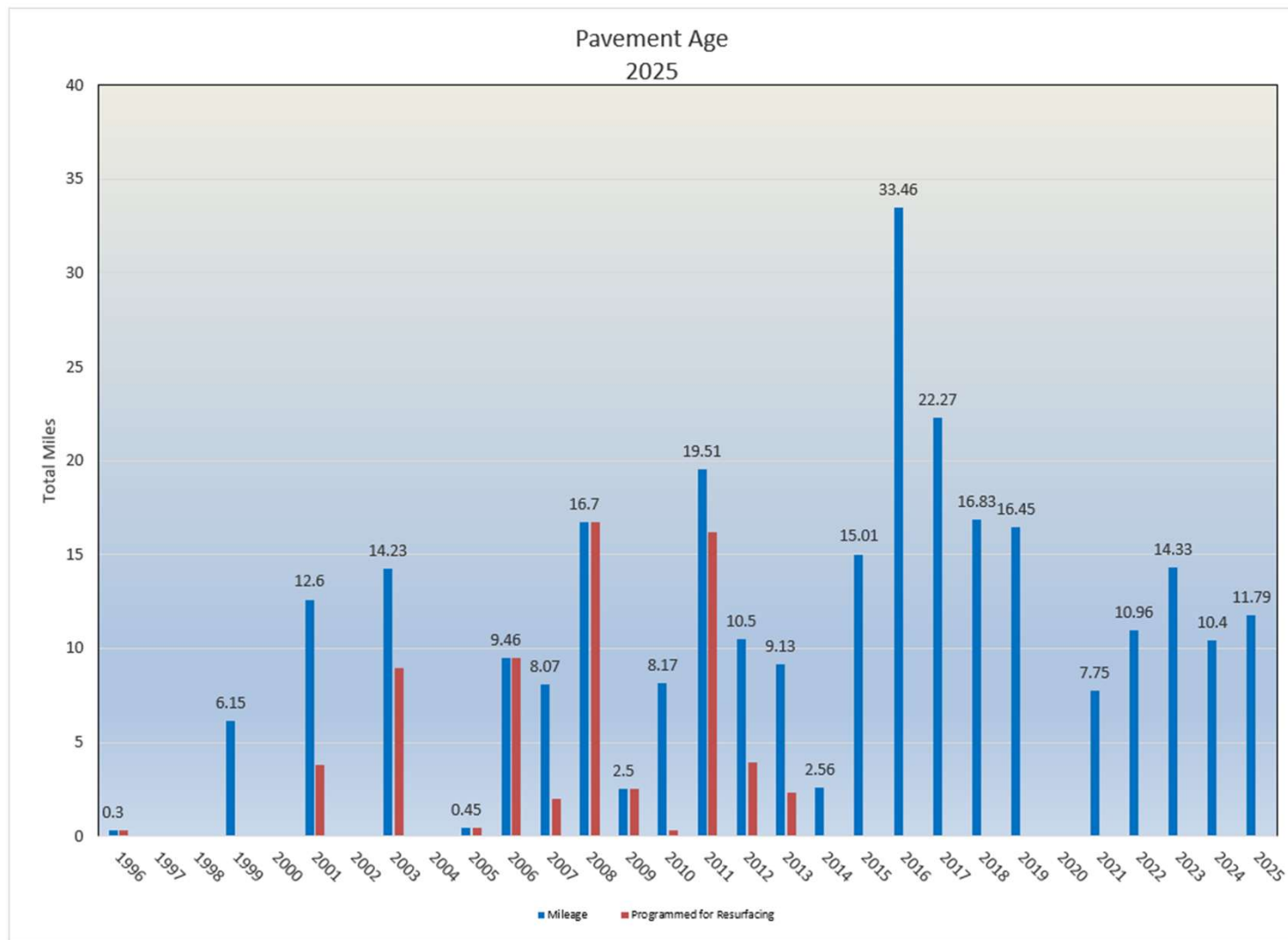
4. Intersection Pavement Markings

- Provide Stop Ahead message and stop bar for intersections that meet traffic count thresholds
- 11 intersections meet criteria and have markings installed

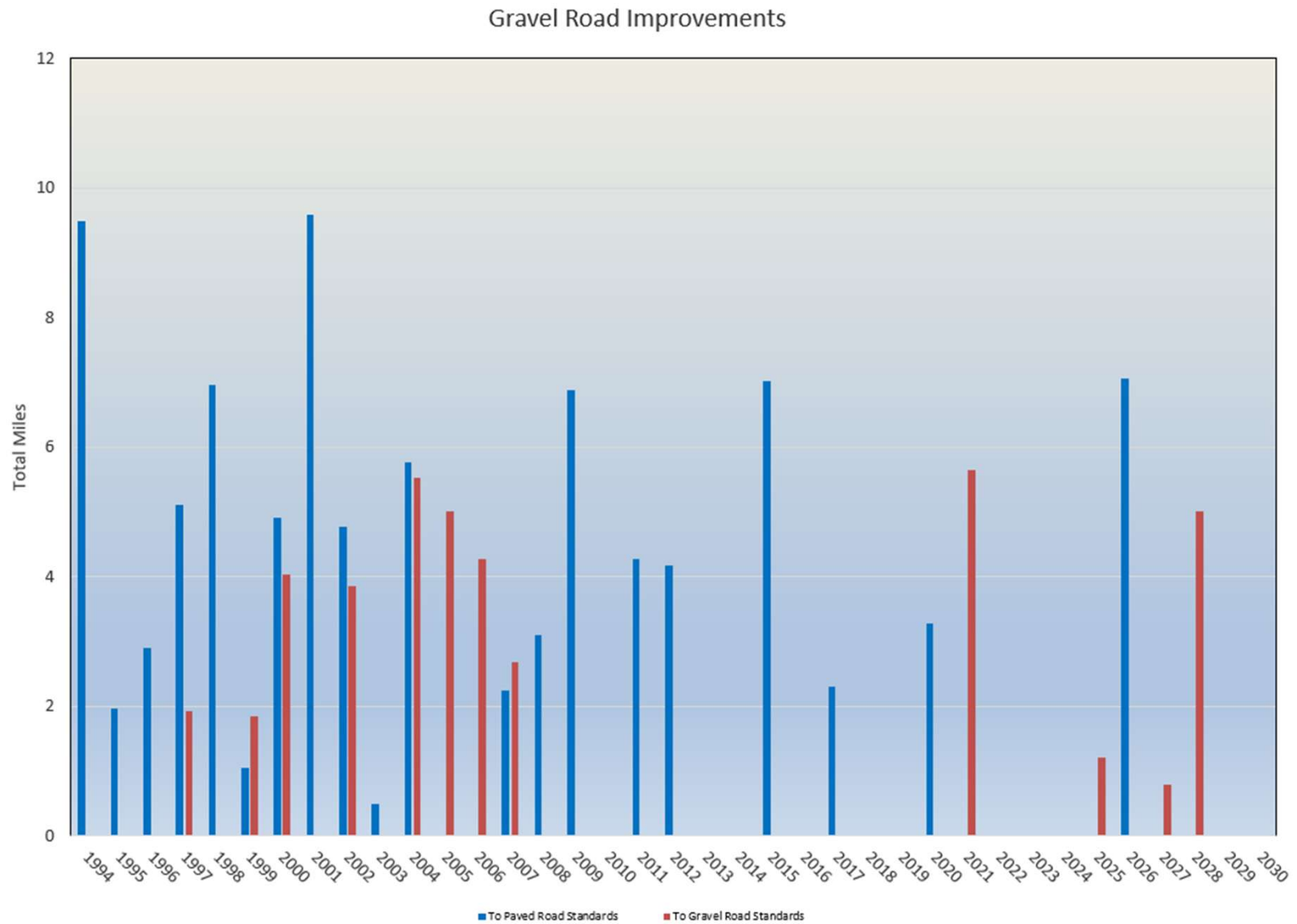
Aitkin County Highway Safety Plan



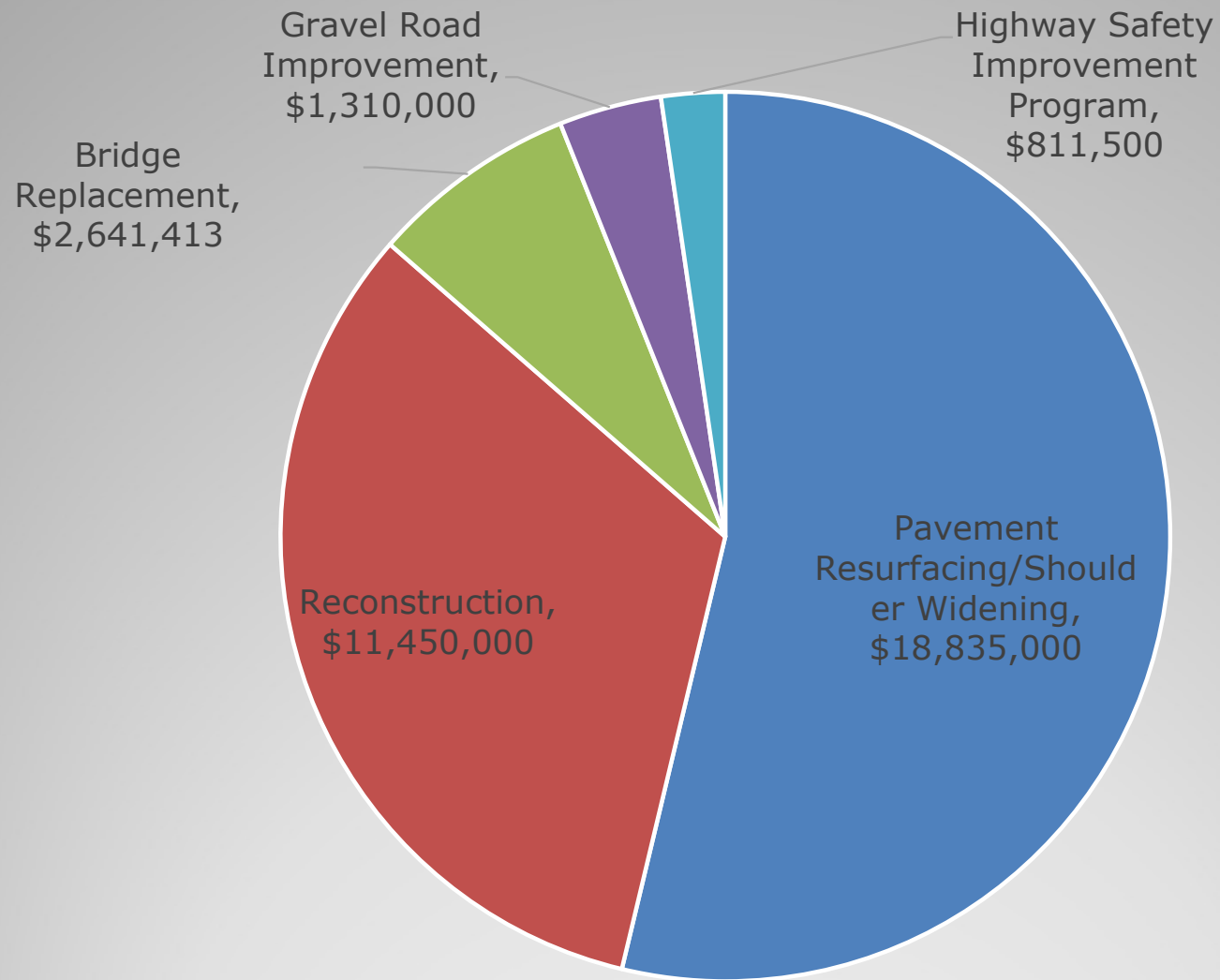
Current Bridge Age Distribution



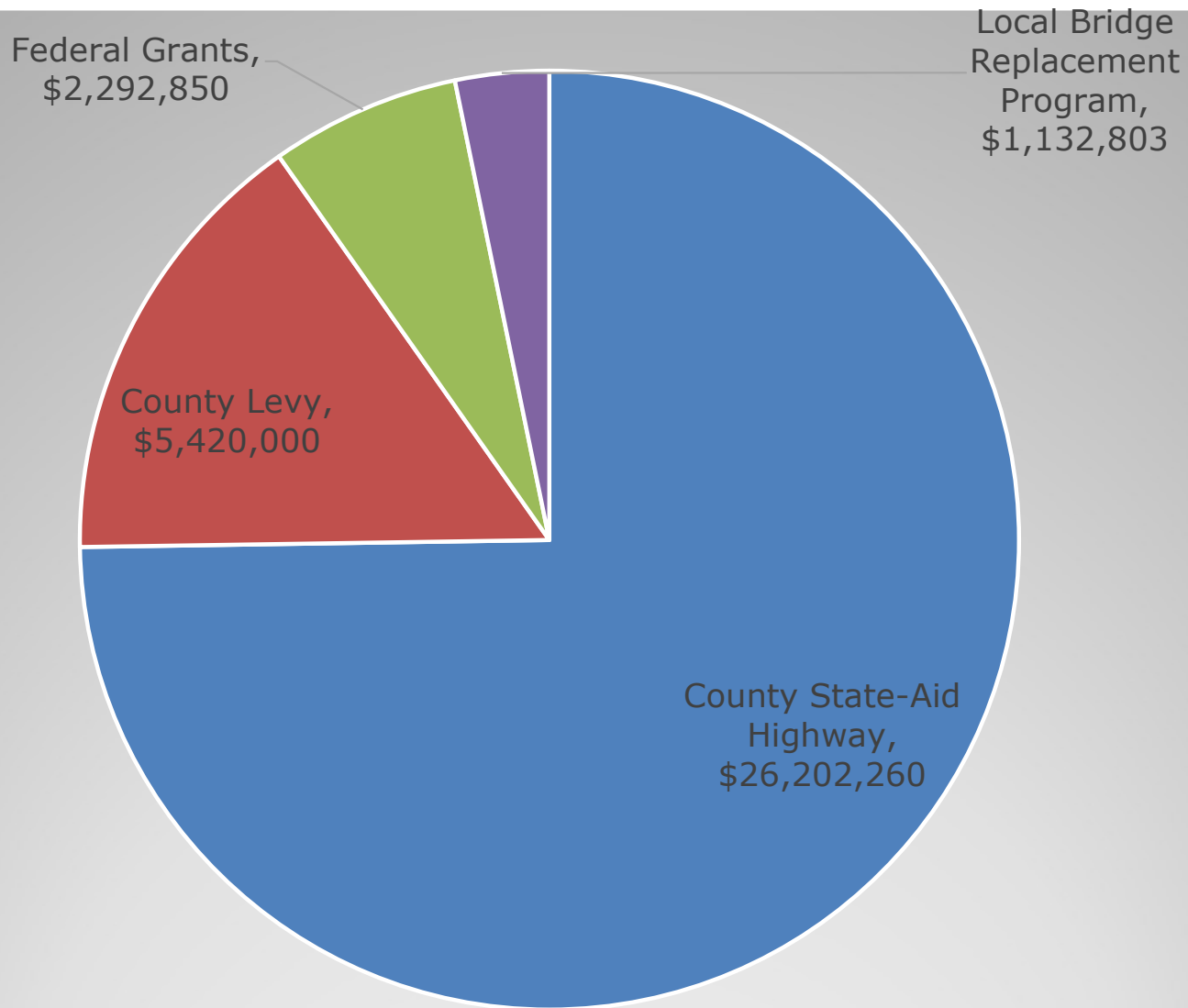
Current Pavement Age Graph



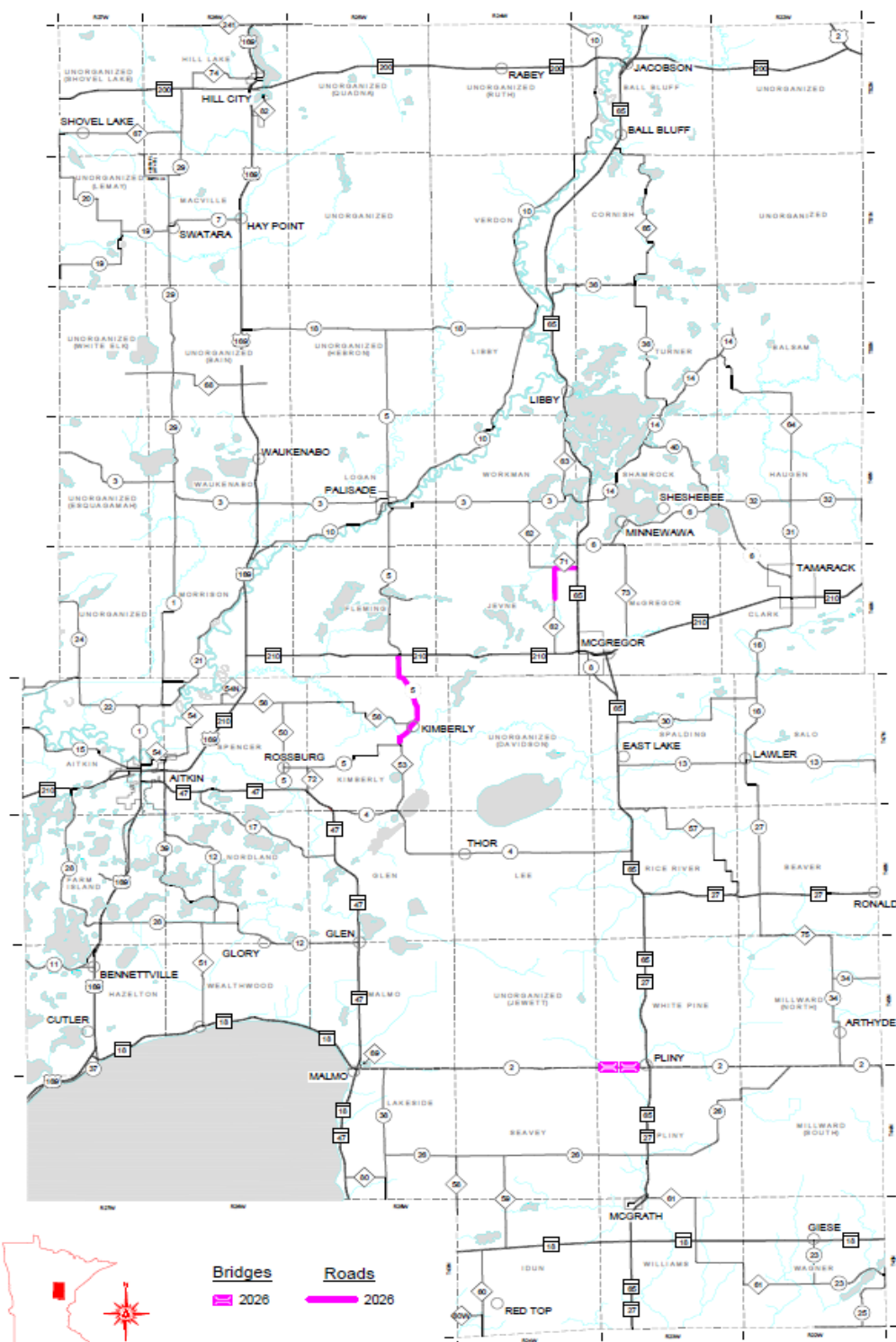
Gravel Road Improvements

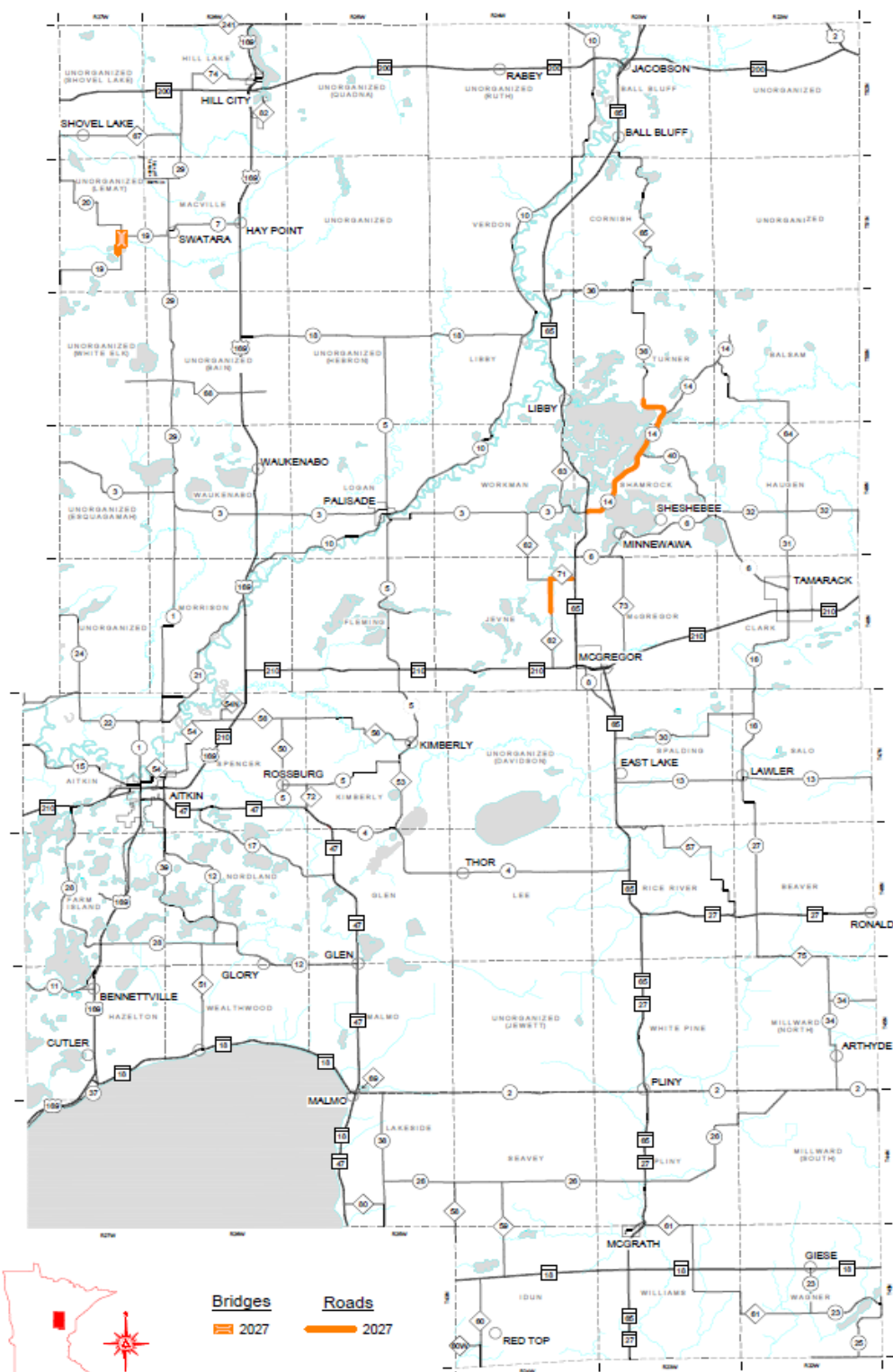


Construction Categories

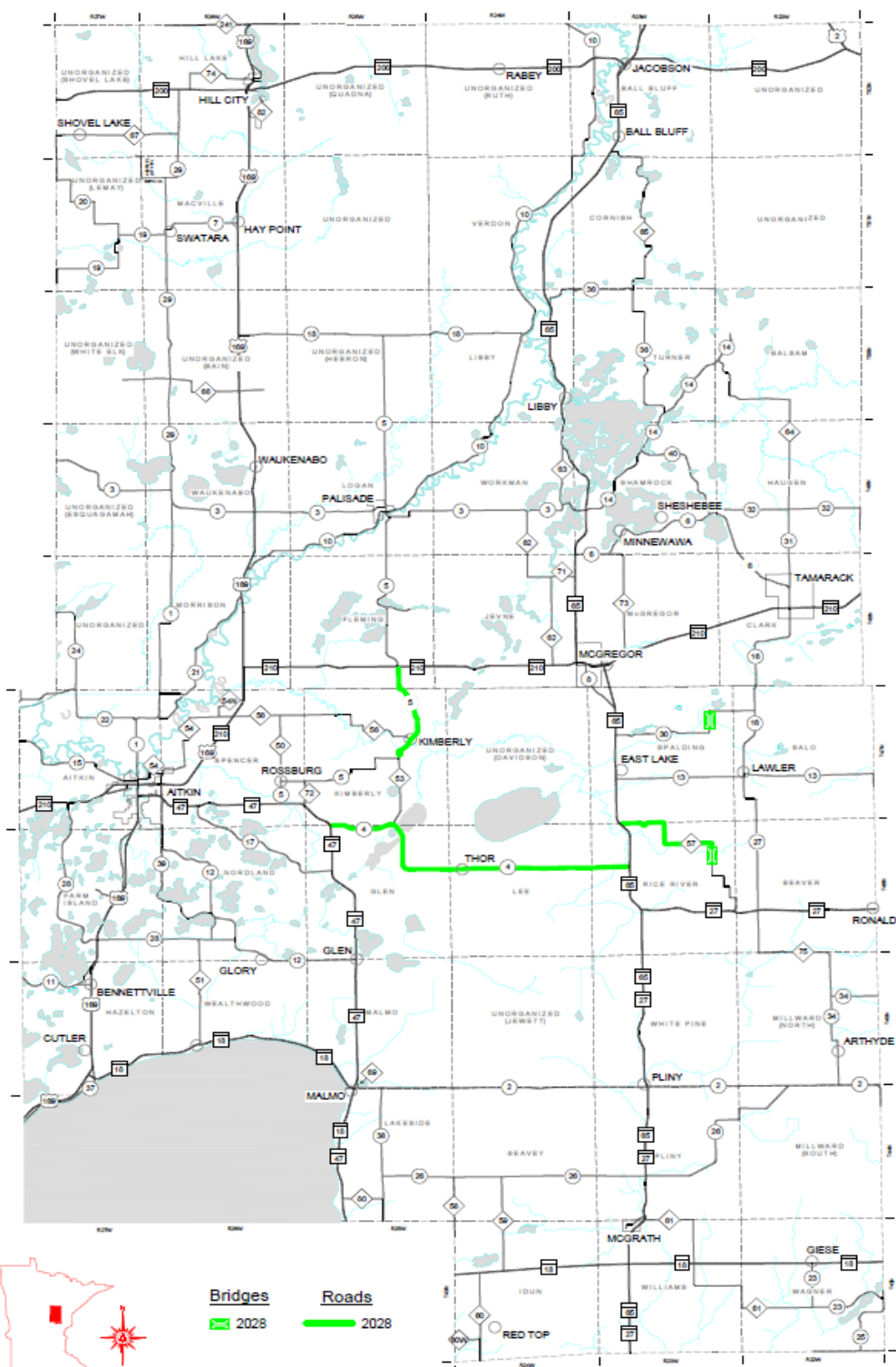


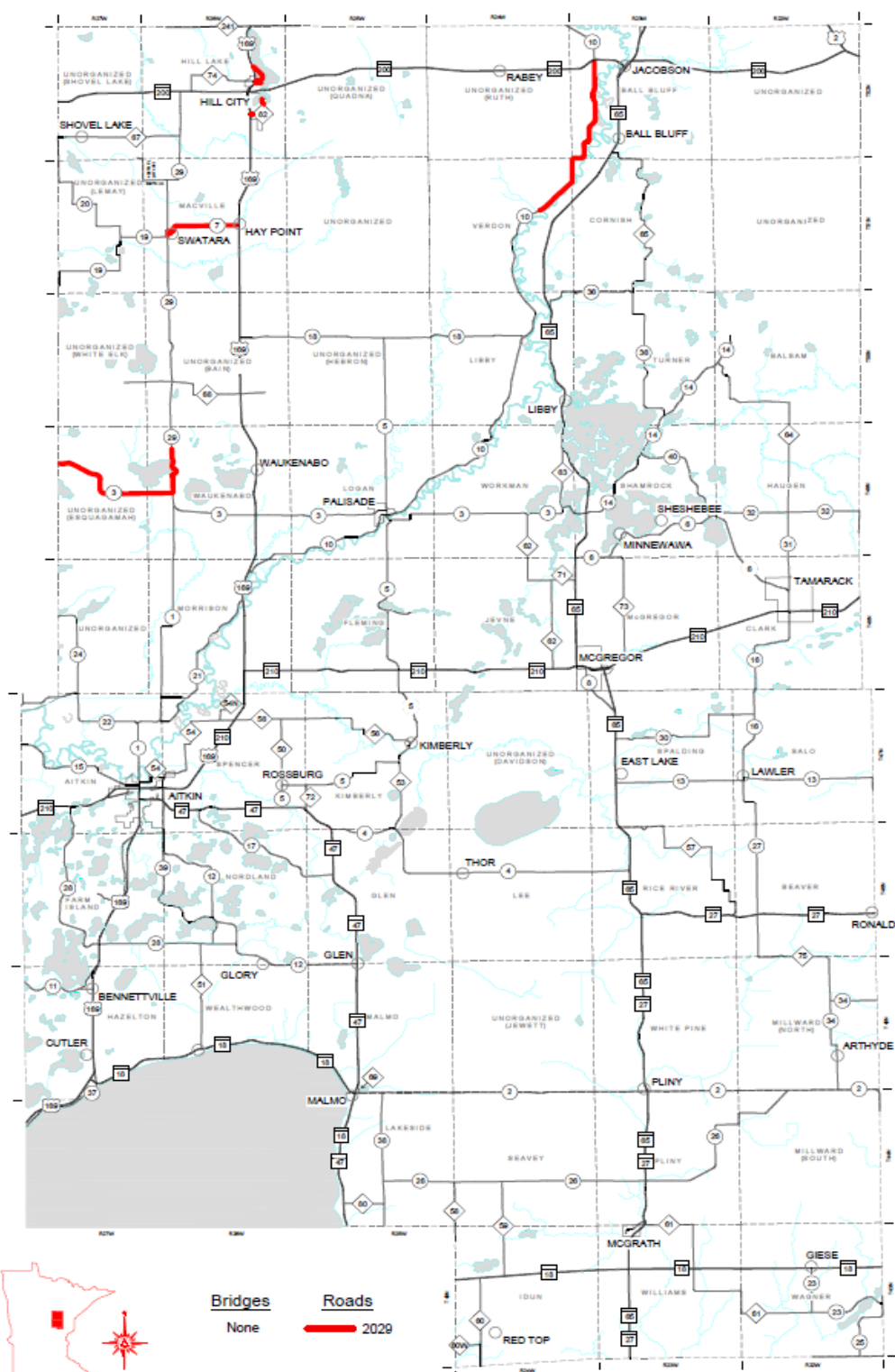
Funding by Source

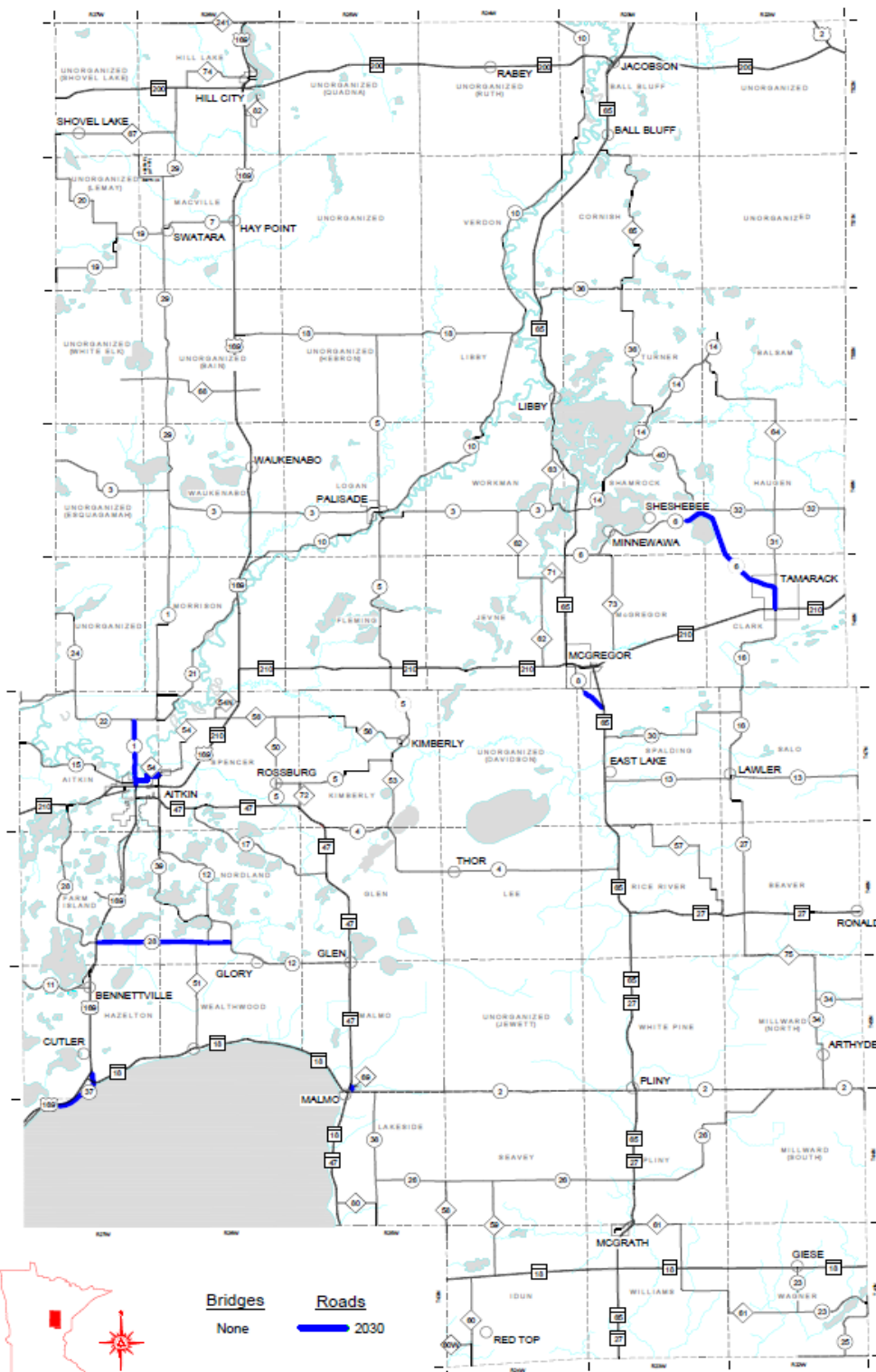




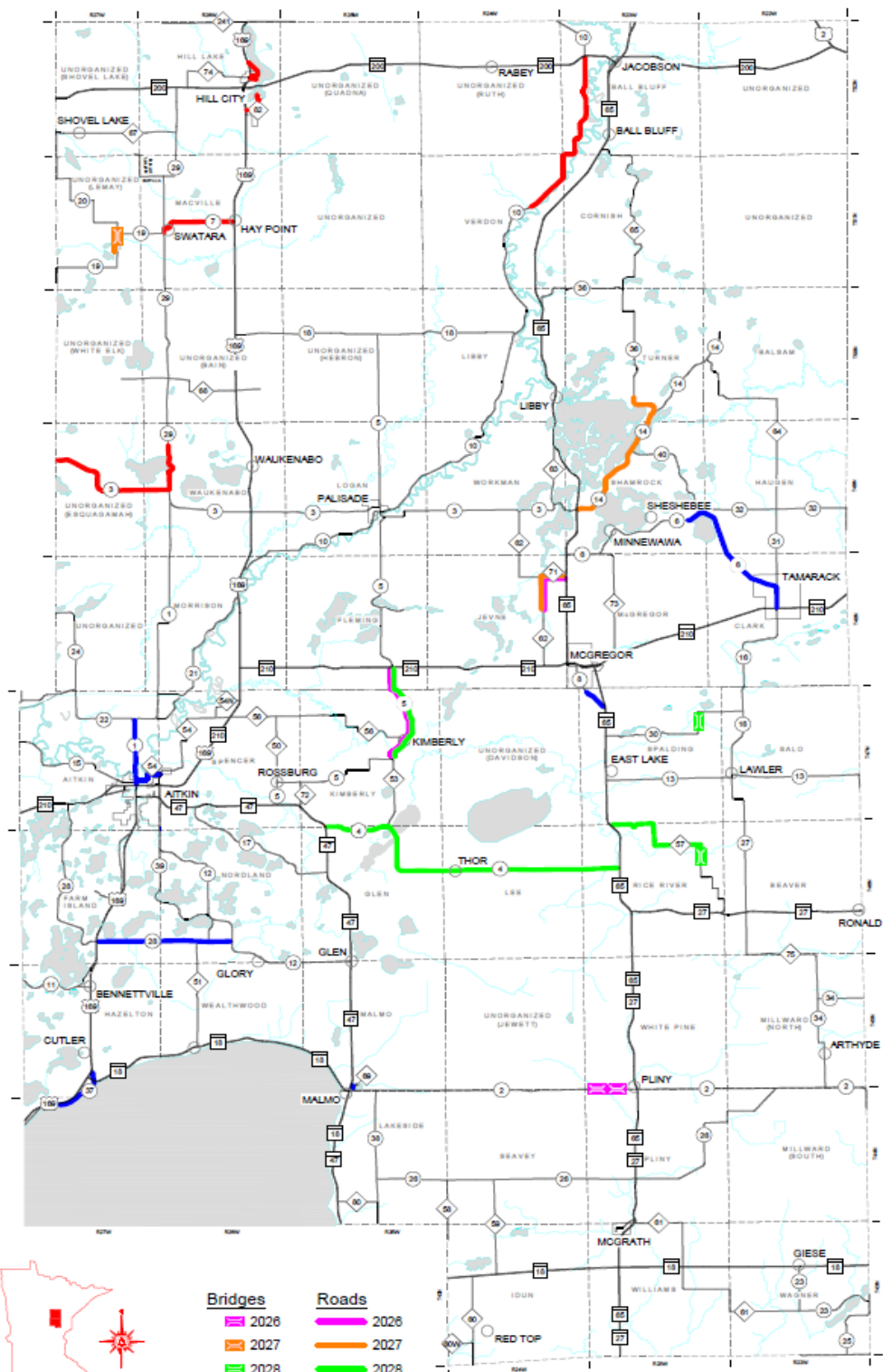
**Aitkin County, MN 2027 Capital
Road Improvement Plan**







**Aitkin County, MN 2030 Capital
Road Improvement Plan**



**Aitkin County, MN 2026-2030
Capital Road Improvement Plan**