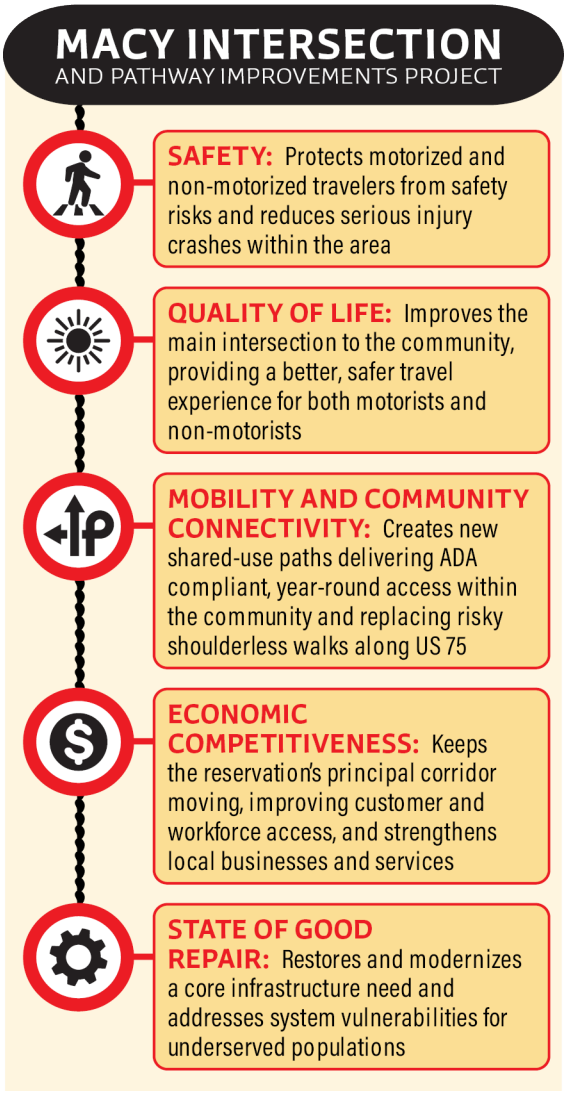
MACY INTERSECTION
AND PATHWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Project Description

The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska (The Tribe), in partnership with Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), is requesting $9,879,143 in BUILD grant program funds to complete the construction of the Macy Intersection and Pathway Improvements Project (The Project). This Project has consistently remained a top priority for the Tribe. In FY 2023, the Tribe received High Priority Project (HPP) funding to support its advancement and retains $500,000 in unobligated funds. While a local match is not required, the Tribe will dedicate these funds to the total project cost to demonstrate its strong commitment and investment in the Project.

The Project will construct a modern roundabout and shared-use pathways at the intersection of US Highway 75 (US 75) and Main Street in Macy, Nebraska. Macy, located on the eastern edge of the Omaha Reservation, serves as the headquarters for the Omaha Tribe. US 75 is the primary transportation corridor for the reservation, connecting Macy to Winnebago to the north and Decatur to the south. The existing intersection is skewed, with steep approaching grades, and a narrow two-lane highway lacking shoulders and designated turning lanes, creating significant safety hazards for motorists and pedestrians. The proposed roundabout will improve traffic flow, reduce vehicle speeds, and enhance sight distance for turning traffic. Integrated shared-use paths along three legs of the intersection will provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access between key community destinations, including the Carl T. Curtis Health Center, Main Street, and Nebraska Indian Community College. The Project will improve safety and mobility, support economic development, address state of good repair, and enhance quality of life for residents and travelers on the Omaha Reservation.

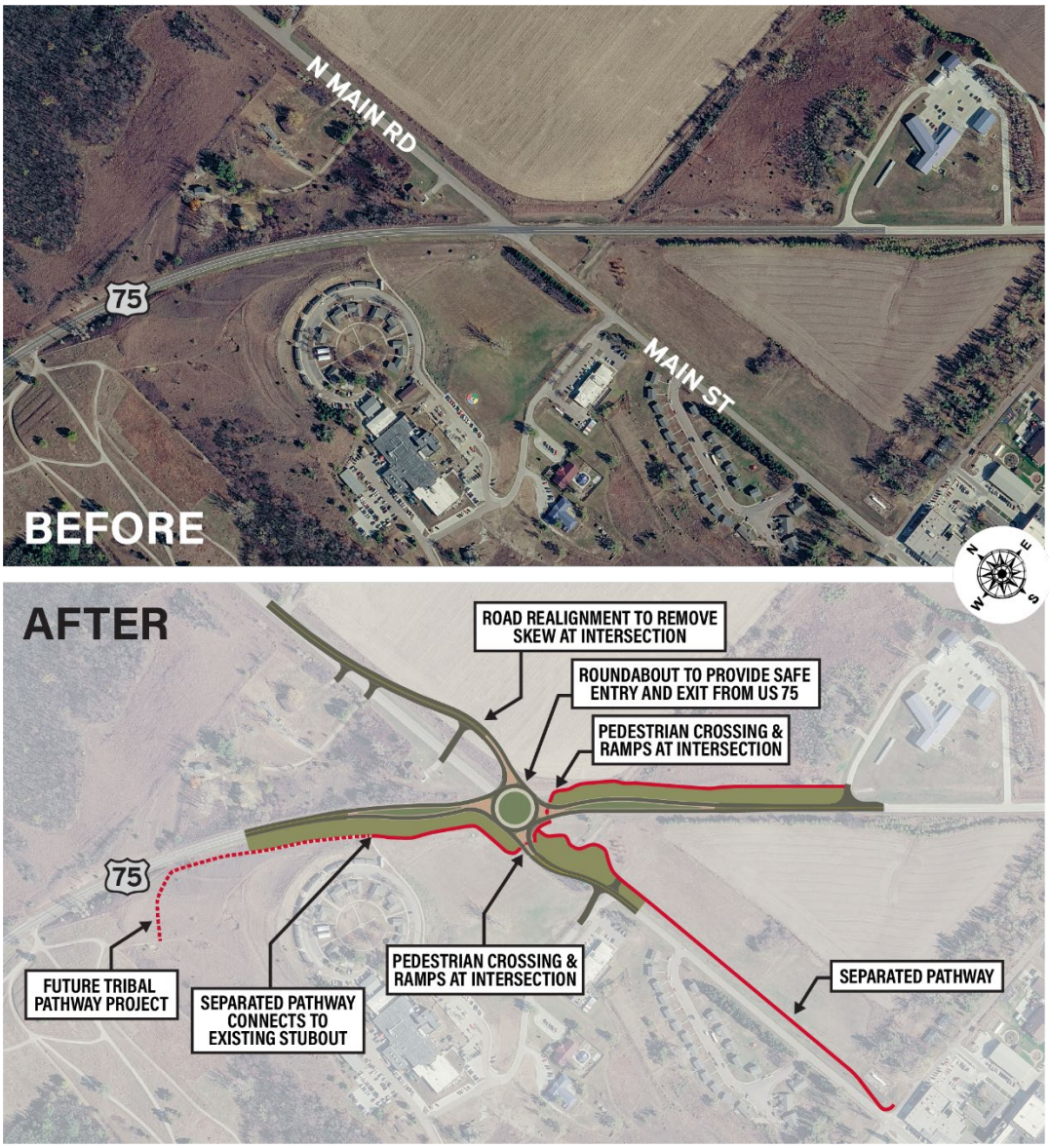


Transportation Challenges and Detailed Scope of Work

CURRENT TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES

The existing intersection at US 75 and Main Street presents multiple transportation, safety, and accessibility challenges for the Macy community. Today, vehicles approach the intersection at speeds

up to 65 miles per hour, navigating a skewed layout with steep grades and limited sight distance, which creates a high-risk environment for both motorists and pedestrians. Turning movements from Main Street onto US 75 are especially hazardous due to poor visibility and the absence of geometric features that support safe merging. These conditions create a corridor where even routine local travel carries risks to safety.



Compounding these risks is the complete lack of pedestrian infrastructure. There are no sidewalks, shoulders, or designated crossings along this segment of US 75, forcing pedestrians, including children, elders, and families, to walk directly on the roadway alongside high-speed traffic. This presents serious dangers for residents traveling to and from key community destinations such as the Carl T. Curtis Health Center, UMÓⁿHOⁿ Nation Public Schools, the Nebraska Indian Community College, and Main Street businesses. Without separated pathways or protected crossing points, daily pedestrian or bicycle travel exposes users to safety risks.

The project directly addresses these challenges by introducing a modern roundabout designed to reduce travel speeds from 65 mph to approximately 20 mph, dramatically lowering the likelihood and severity of crashes. By lowering the roadway profile by about 15 feet and softening vertical curves and approach grades, the project significantly improves driver sight distance and enhances safety for turning vehicles. Traffic operations will also improve, as drivers will no longer be required to stop at a stop sign; instead, the roundabout will allow continuous, lower-speed movement that reduces delay and minimizes conflict points.

In addition, the construction of ADA-compliant shared-use pathways will finally provide a separate, safe travel corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists between major community destinations. These pathways create a protected environment for residents, students, and patients, and establish the first safe multimodal connection between health, education, and commercial centers in Macy. The addition of marked crossings, detectable warnings, and lighting upgrades will further enhance user safety and nighttime visibility.

Together, these improvements will transform the intersection from a high-risk, vehicle-dominated environment into a safer, more efficient, and more accessible hub of community activity. By reducing speeds, improving sight distance, expanding multimodal options, and eliminating longstanding access barriers, the project will deliver substantial safety, mobility, and quality-of-life benefits for the Omaha Reservation.

ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION SCOPE

The roundabout portion of the Project will reconstruct the existing intersection at US 75 and Main Street by removing the current pavement and underlying materials, followed by phased demolition that maintains safe traffic operations on US 75 throughout construction. Major earthwork will lower and flatten the roadway profile by roughly 15 feet, improving sight distance and reducing steep approach grades. This work will be supported by a redesigned drainage system featuring new culverts, inlets, and ditching, along with erosion and slope-stabilization measures to protect the newly built embankments.

Construction of the modern single-lane roundabout will include a central island with a truck apron, splitter islands, pedestrian refuge areas, and new curb and gutter systems to manage vehicle speeds. The pavement structure will be built to NDOT and Tribal standards and designed to accommodate long-term traffic demands.

To enhance safety and operations, the project will install new lighting on all approaches, apply crosswalks and lane markings, and place high-visibility signage to guide drivers through the new traffic pattern.

SHARED-USE PATHWAY CONSTRUCTION SCOPE

The pathway component of the Project will create an ADA compliant, fully integrated shared use path that connects directly with the new roundabout. The design will ensure proper slopes, grades, and surface materials that meet ADA and Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) standards, with detectable warning surfaces installed at all pedestrian crossing points and appropriate roundabout accessibility measures. Construction activities will include

clearing, grading, and building a durable concrete or asphalt pathway capable of serving pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, and other low speed mobility devices.

To improve safety and user experience, the project will add pathway lighting, wayfinding signs, and bicycle friendly signage along the route. Erosion control measures will be implemented during construction, followed by final site restoration that includes topsoil placement, seeding or native plantings, and stabilization of disturbed slopes.

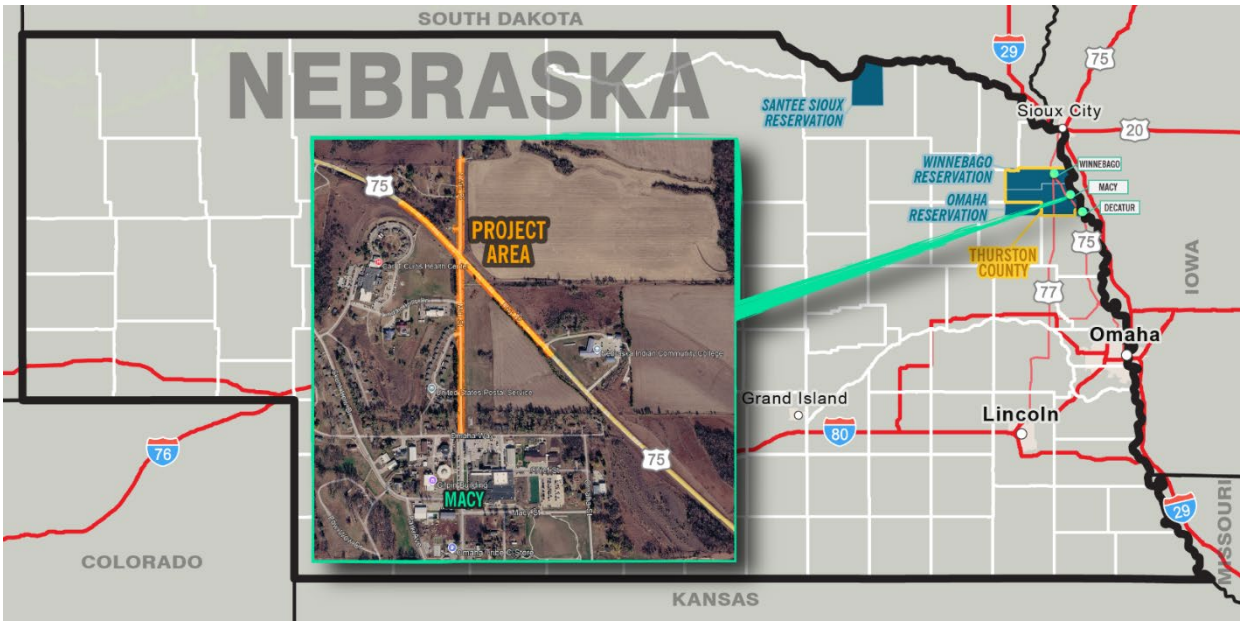
Current Design Level

NDOT is currently completing the design of the roundabout portion of the project. NDOT started planning and preliminary engineering in August 2023. They are currently at 90-percent design with expected completion of design and environmental documentation by mid-2026 and ROW acquisition completed by end of December 2026. If granted funding, construction is anticipated to begin in spring of 2027.

In parallel, the Tribe is completing the shared use pathway portion of the project, from the roundabout construction limits going south on Main Ave to Omaha Way, which is currently 50 percent designed. Topographic and utility surveys, wetland delineations, preliminary geometrics, profiles, and quantity estimates are complete, and final pathway design is also targeted for mid-2026, aligning both components on a unified schedule for construction.

Description of the Project Location

The Project is located on the north edge of Macy, Nebraska, within the boundaries of the Omaha Indian Reservation. The project centers on the intersection of US Highway 75 and Main Street, a critical junction serving as the primary north–south transportation corridor through the Reservation. This segment of US 75 carries regional traffic between Winnebago, Macy, and



Decatur, a role confirmed by Nebraska Department of Transportation traffic mapping, which identifies US 75 as a key mobility spine in Thurston County.

Macy serves as the central hub for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, a federally recognized Indian Tribe with a reservation population of approximately 2,459 residents, an enrolled membership of 7,206, and 27,828 acres of trust land. Tribal government offices, essential services, and key community institutions are all located in Macy, making safe and reliable access through this intersection vital to daily life across the Reservation.

The Reservation, including Macy, qualifies as a Historically Disadvantaged Community, and the community's socioeconomic profile underscores the importance of infrastructure investment. The most recent census data shows that Macy's poverty rate is extremely high, at 48.2 percent, and the community is 97 percent American Indian/Alaska Native with a median age of about 20.6 years, reflecting a very young and vulnerable population. These demographic conditions highlight the need for safer, more accessible transportation facilities that support students, workers, families, and elders who rely on this corridor for daily travel.

Project's History

The Project is built upon several years of coordinated planning by the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and NDOT. The proposed roundabout was formally identified as the Tribe's top transportation priority in the 2022 Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan, reflecting the community's urgent need to address long-standing safety and mobility concerns at the US 75/Main Street intersection. The Tribe is now finalizing its 2026–2031 Capital Improvement Plan, which again includes this Project as a critical infrastructure investment.

In 2022, the Tribe was awarded a RAISE planning grant to advance environmental reviews, develop final cost estimates, and prepare design and engineering specifications for roadway improvements identified in the Tribe's Transportation Plan, adopted by Tribal Council Resolution in 2021. This planning effort focuses on vehicle and pedestrian safety, ADA compliance, improved connectivity, water-runoff management, erosion mitigation, and support for economic and housing development across the Reservation.

HOW PROJECT FITS WITHIN THE APPLICANT'S BROADER TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The Project is a central component of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska's broader, long-term strategy to modernize transportation infrastructure across the Reservation. This project builds directly on the Tribe's earlier success securing a 2022 RAISE planning grant, which established the foundation for a coordinated system of roadway and multimodal improvements throughout Macy. That planning effort identified critical safety, accessibility, and connectivity needs and provided the Tribe with the technical groundwork, i.e. environmental reviews, preliminary engineering, and cost estimation, to advance priority projects such as this one. The proposed roundabout and shared use pathways continue that momentum by addressing one of the most urgent safety concerns on the Reservation while aligning with the Tribe's 2026–2031 Capital Improvement Plan.