



CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA

January 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Mendota Heights City Hall, 1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights

1. Call to Order

2. Discussion

- a. Billboards in Mendota Heights
- b. Valley Park DNR Grant Opportunity

3. Adjourn

Alternative formats or auxiliary aids are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.
Please contact City Hall at 651-452-1850 or by emailing cityhall@mendotaheightsmn.gov.

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City Council Work Session Memo

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Cheryl Jacobson, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Billboards in Mendota Heights

ACTION REQUEST:

No formal action requested.

BACKGROUND:

The City has been approached by Melissa Reed of Resolve Strategies in collaboration with Interstate Outdoor Advertising regarding digital signage options along arterial highways within our community. The City Council will be presented with an overview of possible billboard designs within our community, both on private property as well as a conceptual rendering of an option on public property near Kensington Park. No formal action is requested of the City Council, however the guest presenter is seeking guidance from the City Council on if this signage type would be favored within the City, as they may decide to move forward with application requests to permit these sign types. Staff is also seeking direction from the City Council on this topic, as a future application would require code amendments to permit this use.

Currently, the City zoning ordinance regulates signage size and types across the City's commercial and residential zoning districts, but does not explicitly permit digital display billboards or other large signs adjacent to arterial highways. The largest sign type available to a property owner under current regulations is a pylon sign at 25-ft tall, no greater than 100 sq-ft in size in the I-Industrial zoning district. Both of the locations illustrated in the proposed renderings for potential billboard sites are within the PSP-O (Public Semi Public Overlay District), with residential base zoning. Specific new code language relating to billboards and large digital display signs will need to be drafted in order to permit this sign type as a permitted use. The City will also need to designate appropriate zoning districts and design standards for the use. There are also state and federal requirements for billboards adjacent to arterial highways that must be taken into account during ordinance drafting, as well as case law which affects regulations relating to advertising.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Mendota Heights Renderings
2. STA Renderings

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CITY OF
MENDOTA HEIGHTS

Mendota Heights Display Project



Mendota Heights

Proposed Display Location



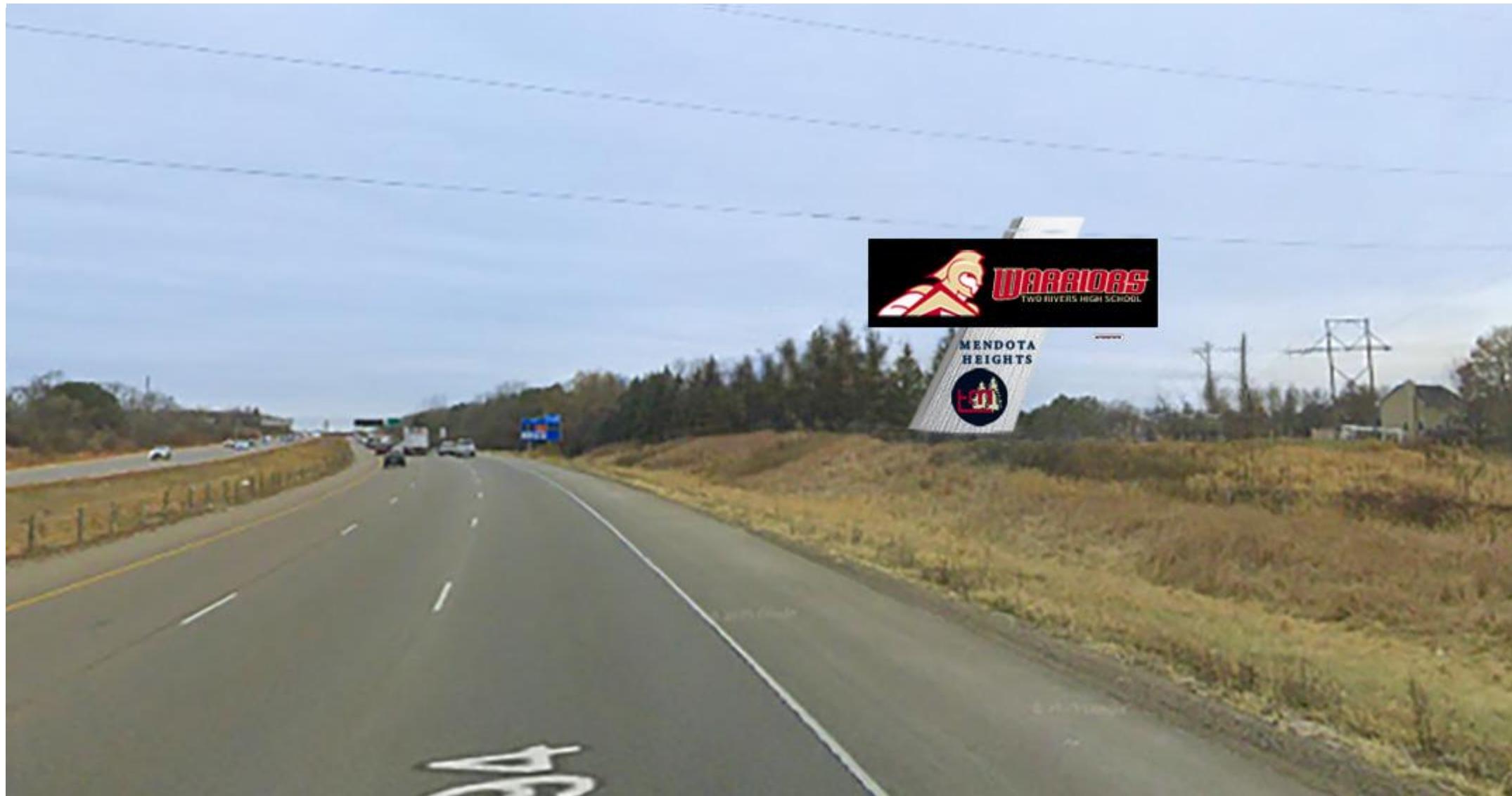
Mendota Heights

Proposed Display Location



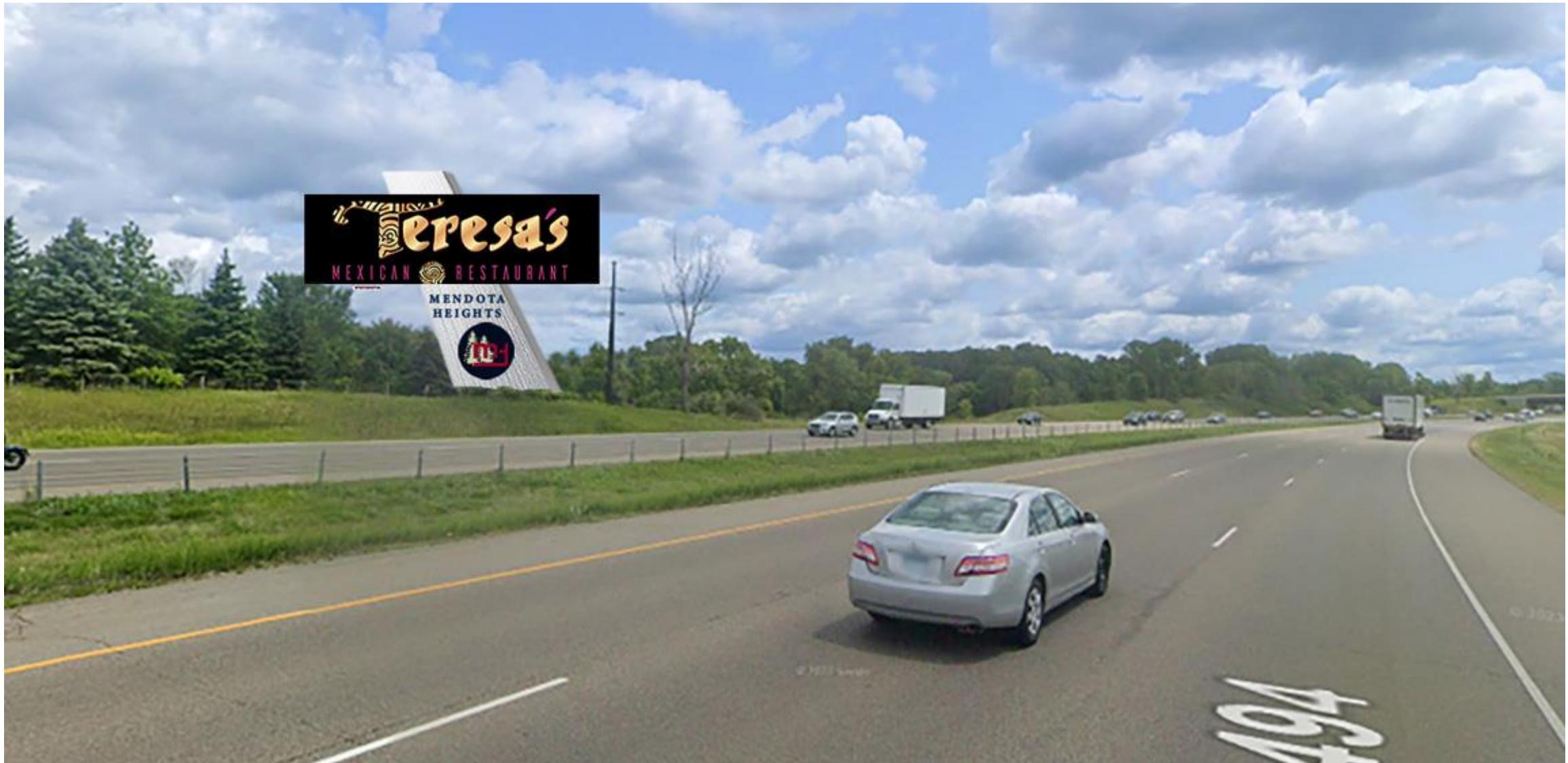
Mendota Heights

Proposed Display Location



Mendota Heights

Proposed Display Location





INTERSTATE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

DIGITAL DISPLAY PROJECT



**SAINT THOMAS
ACADEMY**



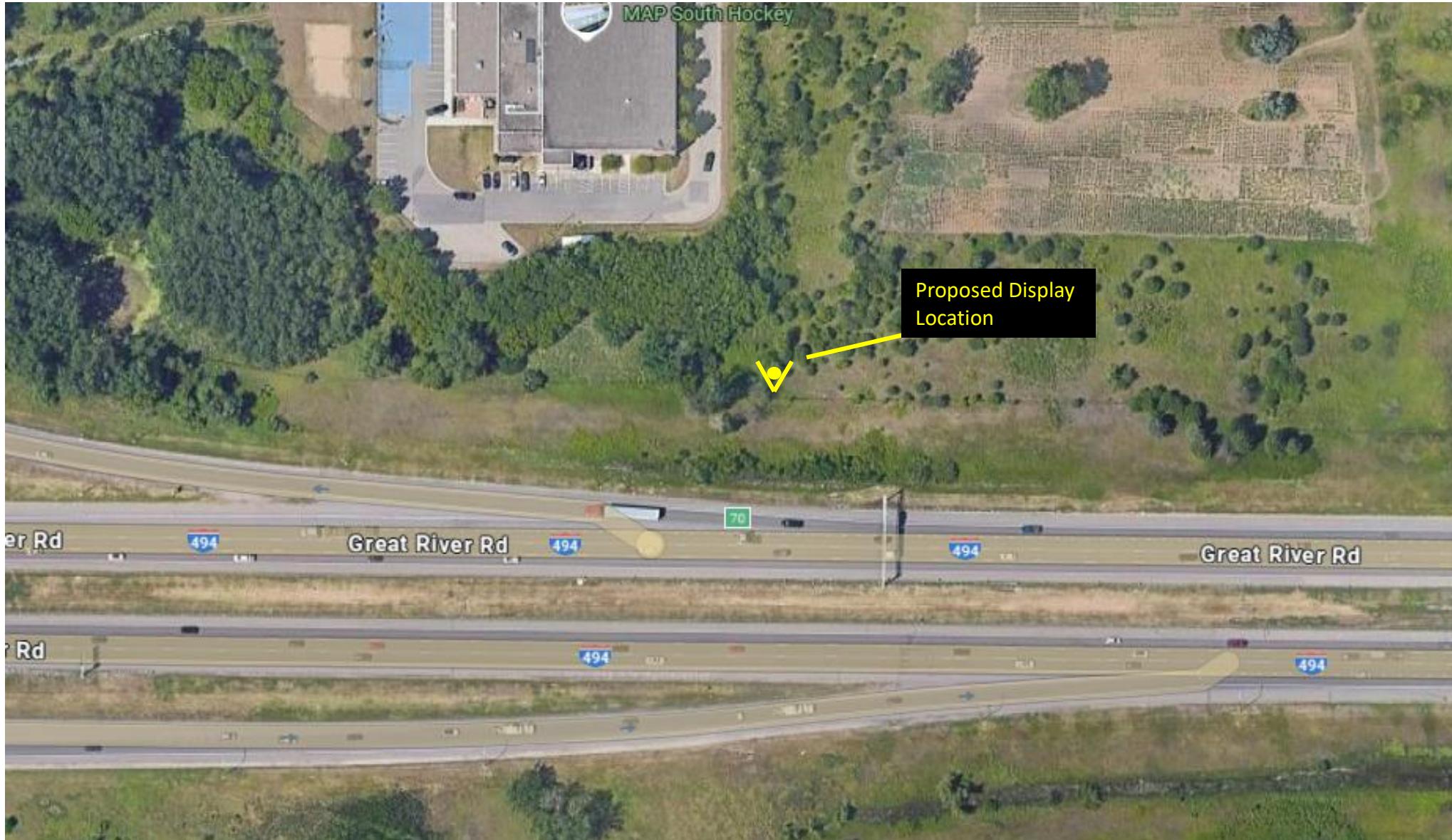
Saint Thomas Academy

Proposed Display Location



Saint Thomas Academy

Proposed Display Location



Saint Thomas Academy

Proposed Display Location – I-494 Westbound View



Saint Thomas Academy

Proposed Display Location – I-494 Eastbound View

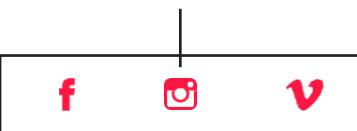


INTERSTATE

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

> 905 N. Kings Highway
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

interstateoutdoor.com



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City Council Work Session Memo

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2026

TO: Mayor, City Council and City Administrator
FROM: Meredith Lawrence, Parks and Recreation/Assistant Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Valley Park DNR Grant Opportunity

ACTION REQUEST:

The City Council is asked to provide staff direction on the proposed park improvements for 2026 at Valley Park and whether or not staff should pursue the MN Department of Natural Resources--Outdoor Recreation Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Outdoor Recreation Grant Program provides matching grants to local units of government for up to 50% of the cost of acquisition, development, and/or redevelopment of local parks and recreation areas. Project proposals must have a total project cost of at least \$100,000. Grants are reimbursed based on up to 50 percent of the total eligible costs. The maximum grant award is \$500,000 (for a total project cost of at least \$1,000,000). The local match can consist of cash, the value of materials, labor and equipment usage by the local sponsor; donations; or any combination thereof.

The Department of Natural Resources will review and rank applications during the spring of 2026. Preliminary grant awards will be announced in the summer of 2026. The application deadline is March 31, 2026.

The review and selection process will focus on guidelines outlined in the 2026-2030 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Additional review components will assess the design of the proposed project and existing park facilities. Project design should be compatible with the physical characteristics of the site, consistent with generally accepted engineering and architectural design standards, in accordance with accessibility standards, and minimize risk to the health and safety of users.

Dakota County has a contract with a Landscape Architect consultant who can assist in submitting the grant application at no cost to the City of Mendota Heights. Staff will present details on the Valley Park project and additional grant information in order for the City Council to provide direction to staff on next steps.

ATTACHMENTS: None

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