The seven-mile section of Interstate 35 in Pine County runs from the Willow River to the Carlton/Pine county line.

The Minnesota Valley Improvement Company (now part of Duininck Brothers, Inc.) originally constructed the road in 1966. It included a subbase of 12 inches of granular material, with the upper 3 inches treated with bituminous material. The base was 4 inches of a bituminous treated gravel base and 4 inches of plant-mixed bituminous base. The top layer was 4 inches of hot-mix asphalt (HMA) designed for high-traffic areas.

The road did not require an overlay until 1989, when it was milled and overlaid with an ultra-thin (1-inch) HMA that contained 20 percent reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP). Ten years later, in 1998, it was milled again and received a 4.5-inch HMA overlay made with approximately 15 percent RAP to accommodate increased traffic loadings. Both of these overlays were quality control/quality assurance projects.

The road is one of the more heavily traveled in that section of Minnesota, with an average daily traffic count of 14,400 vehicles. It has recently received a Pavement Quality Index rating of 3.7 to 3.8 southbound and 3.6 to 3.7 northbound (a good to very good rating).