Built more than 40 years ago, this road still has a PSR (present serviceability rating) of 3.36, which means that it “give(s) a first class ride and exhibit(s) few, if any, visible signs of surface deterioration” according to Federal Highway Administration guidelines.

The 9.3-mile stretch of Minnesota Trunk Highway 71 extends from the South Hubbard County Line to the intersection of Park Avenue/8th Street in Park Rapids. The HMA pavement was built in 1964, when 3 inches of hot-mix asphalt were placed over an existing road. That road had a granular soil subgrade, 4.5-inch aggregate base, and 1.5-inch surface. The contractor on this project was the Duininck Brothers/Gilchrist Company. Since the original construction in 1964, the road has received only a chip seal in 1992 and a 1.5-inch HMA overlay in 1994.

The road has seen a marked increase in traffic through the years, from an average daily traffic count (ADT) of 1410 in 1963 to an ADT of 5806 in 2002.