Initial construction of Minnesota’s award-winning, 2-mile section of SR 36 began in 1960 with the excavation of 1 to 3 feet of unsuitable material and the placement of selected backfill material to create a drainable, strong construction platform. An additional 12 to 20 inches of aggregate base was placed on top of this platform, followed by a 1-inch bituminous base and then a 1.5- to 3-inch asphalt surface course. This section of Highway 36 received one of the first “Merit Awards” for excellence in asphalt paving in Minnesota.

In 1987, 27 years after the road was built, the Minnesota Department of Transportation milled 1.5 inches from the road and laid an asphalt wearing course overlay. Thirteen years later, the pavement received another 1.5-inch mill and asphalt overlay.

During its lifetime, the 48-year-old road has handled approximately 13.5 million equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) of traffic. Its average daily traffic count today is 81,500 vehicles, 7.5 percent of that truck traffic.