



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERSTATE 35 CONSTRUCTION TO SLOW THINGS DOWN ON GRANDMA'S MARATHON WEEKEND

Significant Delays Expected on I35 & in Downtown Duluth, Canal Park

(DULUTH, MINN.) --- Construction on Interstate 35 will continue through Grandma's Marathon weekend, and race officials are warning both residents and visitors to allow themselves more time than usual on what's expected to be the biggest race weekend ever.

The construction, which started this spring, reduces Interstate 35 traffic to one lane in both directions between Lake Avenue and 27th Avenue West. With tens of thousands of people set to descend on Duluth for the race weekend, June 19-21, organizers are encouraging everyone to arrive early if possible and to practice patience.

"It's unfortunate timing but something we don't have control over. We'll play the hand we're dealt and try to make the best of it together," Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider said. "Thursday will be the optimal arrival day for those who can make it. Friday will be more slow-going, so knowing that and planning ahead can make all the difference."

The most affected areas will be the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), Bayfront Festival Park, downtown Duluth, and Canal Park area. Anyone trying to access these areas, especially for the events listed below, will experience heavy congestion and delays.

- Packet Pickup
- Essentia Health Fitness Expo
- Michelina's All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner
- Rock the Bayfront Festival
- William A. Irvin 5K
- Whipper Snapper Races & YAF Festival for Kids
- Finish Line (Grandma's Marathon & Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon)



ARRIVING TO DULUTH

It's **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that visitors plan their arrival to Duluth within the following time windows, if possible, to avoid the most congested parts of race weekend.

Thursday, June 19: All Day (**best option**)

Friday, June 20: Before 10:00 a.m. or After 4:00 p.m.

*REMINDER: The William A. Irvin 5K starts at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20. Those participants are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to pick up their race packet on Thursday or no later than 11:00 a.m. on Friday to avoid being late to the start line.*

Arriving From the South

To access Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) from the south on Interstate 35, use the following directions:

Option A: Take Exit 256A toward Mesaba Avenue/MN-194. Use the right lane to go toward Superior Street/Michigan Street and keep left onto Superior Street. Turn right onto 5th Avenue West.

Option B: Use the Interstate 35 bypass before taking temporary Exit 256B toward Lake Avenue. Turn right onto Lake Avenue.

RACE MORNING – PARTICIPANTS

Participants planning to use the following loading locations on race morning are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** to plan extra time, as we expect heavier traffic and delays due to the construction:

- Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)
- Proctor Sports & Event Center
- University of Wisconsin-Superior

While we do recommend arriving as early as possible to the loading location, **we still ask that participants load the bus in the time window provided, based on their corral assignment.** Those time windows are available [HERE](#). This will help ensure participants with earlier start times arrive on time for their race.

RACE MORNING – SPECTATORS

Construction, road closures, and race day crowds will make travel in and around Canal Park, downtown Duluth, and Park Point very difficult on Saturday, June 21. Please allow yourself extra time, be patient, and look into alternate routes if possible.

For any questions or interview requests, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at zach@grandmasmarathon.com.

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Holiday Stationstores/Circle K | Jamar | maurices | Michelina's | Michelob Ultra | Minneapolis Oxygen | Minnesota Pork Board | Minnesota Power/ALLETE
Napa Auto Parts | Northland FAN 106.5 | Powerade ION4 | Storm Creek | Super One Foods | WM | WDIO/WIRT-TV

ABOUT GRANDMA'S MARATHON

Grandma's Marathon began in 1977 when a group of local runners planned a scenic road race from Two Harbors to Duluth, Minnesota. After seeing just 150 registered participants that year, the marathon has now grown into the 10th largest in the United States.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma's Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the marathon. Having now added the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and William A. Irvin 5K, the race weekend now welcomes more than 20,000 participants to Duluth and the surrounding region each year.

As the popularity of Grandma's Marathon weekend has grown, our mission has stayed the same – to organize, promote, and deliver annual events and programs that cultivate running, educational, social, and charitable opportunities to our communities.

Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with an nine-person, full-time staff and a 17-member Board of Directors.



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