

I-494 Corridor Commission

Bloomington • Edina • Eden Prairie • Minnetonka • Richfield

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The I-494 Corridor Commission has identified the following transportation projects as priorities for development in the south and west metro region and calls on the Legislature to provide sufficient funding to advance the construction timetable for much needed projects that benefit the region.

HIGHEST PRIORITY HIGHWAY PROJECT ***Highway 169/I-494 Interchange Reconstruction***

This project is of critical importance to our entire region as well as the inter-regional corridor between Southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities, including the Port of Savage. The commercial significance of the reconstruction of the interchange to accomplish the free flow of people, goods and services cannot be over-emphasized. It is also one of the most, if not the most, congested and dangerous intersection in the Metro Area with 175,000 vehicle movements per day through a U.S. highway and freeway interchange controlled by stoplights. Reconstruction of the 169/494 interchange will eliminate all of these safety, commercial and quality of life challenges. Local access improvements will also benefit the communities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Edina.

The interchange was previously scheduled for construction but delayed because of MnDOT budget problems. Now is an opportune time to bid and reconstruct the interchange under MnDOT's Performance Based Design criteria.

This major project is “shovel ready” and can qualify for a second round of federal stimulus funding! The EIS is completed and municipal consent has been granted by Bloomington, Edina, and Eden Prairie.

HIGHEST PRIORITY TRANSIT PROJECT ***Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit Line***

Years of planning by Hennepin County and participation by residents and the business community of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie has resulted in the selection of the preferred alternative LRT alignment that will provide a high-frequency transit option linking the rapidly growing southwest metro area to downtown Minneapolis. The 2010 Legislature needs to provide \$7 million in funds to support the state's request for Federal Transit Administration approval to fund preliminary engineering that will get this vital project underway.

OTHER MAJOR ROAD & BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
To Reduce Congestion, Enhance Safety
Increase Economic Productivity

- I-35W/I-494 interchange phased capacity improvements needed to improve traffic flow in metro area's busiest interchange (Bloomington, Richfield)
 - Highway 169 ramps and Bren Road bridge improvements near the Opus Office Park area needed for United Health Group (Phase II) and other expansions (Minnetonka)
 - New westbound entrance ramp onto I-394 will lead to redeveloping the Ridgedale Mall and improved transit facilities (Minnetonka)
 - Shady Oak Road/Highway 212 Interchange reconstruction to continue growth and expansion of Supervalu, LifeTouch Photography and Starkey Labs (Eden Prairie)
 - France Avenue/Highway 62 Interchange reconstruction (Edina)
 - 77th Street Underpass under Highway 77 to connect to 24th Avenue, the airport and the Mall of America to relieve traffic congestion on I-494 (Richfield)
 - Bush Lake Road west bound ramp onto I-494 (Richfield)
 - Highway 169/Valley View Road interchange reconstruction (Edina)
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OTHER IMPORTANT TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
Provide Transportation Options for Commuters

- American Blvd. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station along 35W
 - Update and enhance the existing Mall of America transit station under the east parking deck to increase capacity, be a time-efficient BRT stop and improve the transit customer experience
 - Bicycle/Pedestrian Passageway through Richfield
 - Retain current levels of transit service including east west relievers along I-494 and suburb to suburb connections
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The I-494 Corridor Commission

The I-494 Corridor Commission encourages economic growth and regional prosperity through improved transportation options along I-494. The Commission is made up of elected officials and city administrators from Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Minnetonka, and Richfield, as well as the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council, and the private business community. It acts as a Transportation Management Organization (TMO) in our member cities which reaches out to employers and their employees to promote ride sharing, public transit and bicycling as an alternative to single-occupant vehicular commuting.