Who We Are

The I-494 Corridor Commission is made up of elected officials and city administrators from Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Minnetonka, Richfield, and supported by representatives from MnDOT, the Metropolitan Council, and the private business community.

The Commission, together with its Commuter Services outreach program, encourages economic growth and regional prosperity through improved transportation options and supports commuter alternatives along with roads, bridges and transit improvements as a combined solution to slow the growth of traffic congestion and improve mobility.

Working through employers to reach their employees with options for sustainable commuting is incredibly effective. Commuter Services works with over 1,000 employers and multi-tenant properties with a wealth of resources and services aimed at converting drive-alone commuters into a sustainable commute mode. We focus on reducing vehicle miles driven by commuters by assisting drive-alone commuters convert to a sustainable commute mode choice.

Roadway and Interchange Projects

1. Improve TH 62 in each direction to reduce traffic congestion from Penn to Hwy. 169 to continue Crosstown Commons improvements
2. Hwy. 169/Valley View Road interchange reconstruction
3. Reconstruct the Tracy Ave. & TH 62 interchange and the Gleason Rd. & TH 62 interchange
4. Flyover Exit Ramp from NB I-494 to WB TH 62/TH 5 in Eden Prairie
5. Fully fund the 494: Airport to 169 project

Transit Projects

1. American Blvd. Arterial BRT, connecting the Blue, Red, Orange and Green Transitways with the high employment corridor along I-494
2. Nicoll Arterial BRT
3. Johnson/Lyndale/Penn Arterial BRT
4. Hwy. 169 BRT, connecting Dakota and Scott Counties with Eden Prairie, Bloomington, Edina, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Downtown Minneapolis
5. METRO E Line BRT
6. Riverview/W. 7th Street Corridor, Transit service connecting Bloomington, MSP and downtown Saint Paul

In Progress Projects

- I-494/I-35W Interchange Phase 1
- southwestern LRT
- 77th Street underpass under TH 77

Completed Projects

- METRO Orange Line BRT
- I-494/Hwy. 169 Interchange
- METRO D-Line arterial BRT connecting Bloomington, Richfield and downtown Minneapolis

Resources include:

- Telework/Hybrid Work Arrangements – Dozens of resources including sample policies, employee agreement, ergonomic and home office safety guidelines and checklist and much more
- Hold onsite commuter fairs with employers and multi-tenant office buildings
- Keep employers apprised of transit routes that serve their locations and provide up to date bus schedules
- Provide customized commute resource displays for employees
- TDM Planning, Implementation, Measurement
- Promote and manage preferential carpool/vanpool parking for employers
- Carpool and vanpool ride-matching
- Free outdoor bike racks for employers

78% of drive-alone commuters say if their employer provided a commute benefit it would have a major effect on their commute mode choice.
The I-494 Corridor Commission is requesting $300,000 per year in state funding to promote alternatives to driving alone to work, including:

- Telecommuting
- Vanpools
- Carpools
- Transit
- Biking to work

The Commission will provide telework and hybrid resources, information and assistance on a statewide basis. The Commission requests state funds be eligible to be used as match to federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Program opportunities.

**Legislative Request**

**Jobs through Transportation and Transit Improvements and Corridors of Commerce**

With more jobs than downtown Minneapolis and downtown Saint Paul combined, the I-494 corridor is a critical economic development driver for Minnesota. Investigating the corridor’s transportation infrastructure will keep this engine running, growing and producing dividends for the state.

**Support Transportation Economic Development Program**

The Commission strongly encourages increased investment in the Transportation Economic Development (TED) program. The TED program was created to support local transportation projects that create jobs and improve economic opportunities while making needed improvements to our roadways and interchanges. It offers innovative financing options and allows private sector partners to participate, e.g. United Health/Bren Road and I-494/Penn Ave.

A large number of excellent examples of TED funding candidates are highlighted on our project priority map. They have local backing and a portion of the funds necessary to proceed. The TED program can provide a funding match.

**Support Corridors of Commerce**

The Corridors of Commerce Program funds projects that reduce barriers to commerce by improving the safe and efficient movement of goods and services throughout the state. It aims to increase highway capacity and freight movement on segments where bottlenecks occur. The program uses trunk highway bonding for projects that are not already in the state’s four-year State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The Commission deeply appreciates the Corridors of Commerce funding for the I-494 Corridor granted in 2018. The Commission urges the legislature to continue adequately funding this program going forward.

*When employers provide commuter programs such as a transit benefit, telework, vanpools, preferential carpool parking; one in five employees kick their solo commuting habit. That’s a 20% shift!*

**I-494: Airport to 169 Project**

In May of 2018, Corridors of Commerce awarded $70 million to reduce congestion at the 494/35W interchange by constructing a new ramp from northbound I-35W to westbound I-494. An additional $134 million was awarded to implement E-ZPASS lanes from eastbound France Ave. to Hwy 77 and from westbound Hwy 77 to I-35W. In 2021, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) awarded 560 million to aid in the construction of the first project of the I-494 corridor vision implementation plan.

The proposed project will increase capacity on the interstate and dramatically improve the reliability of the average rush hour trip. The project will also improve transit and increase safety and access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The 494 Corridor Commission supports additional funding that would allow MnDOT to complete the recommended project in its entirety.

*The I-494 Corridor is a heavily used statewide corridor*

- 23% of trips on I-494 are from greater MN
- People from 85 out of 87 Minnesota counties use I-494 between Hwy 169 and the MSP Airport daily

**State of MN**

People from 85 out of 87 Counties use I-494 between Hwy 169 and the MSP airport daily.

**I-494 Corridor Jobs**

There are more jobs along the I-494 corridor from the airport to I-394 than downtown Minneapolis and downtown Saint Paul combined.