

**TH 10 Access Planning Study
MnDOT Metro District
Anoka County, Minnesota**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT
July 2013**

Highway 10 is a principal arterial roadway providing a significant transportation connection from Minneapolis - St. Paul to the northwest suburbs and beyond. The 4-lane roadway (Anoka/Sherburne County line to the Rum River) carries average daily traffic volumes ranging from 33,500 to 61,000 vehicles per day.

Highway 10 has been studied numerous times over the past decade, each time furthering the planning for conversion to a full freeway. Based upon traffic volumes and safety concerns, a freeway is the proper vision for this corridor. The corridor is commonly congested and has much higher than average crash and severity rates than comparable corridors. In addition, the corridor has five signalized intersections and numerous other access points (14.5 per mile) contributing to the degradation of the facility. Over the past 10 years, 13 people have died on the 7-mile corridor. Four of these fatalities were pedestrians, including three in the past 18 months.

Considering overall state and federal funding levels, it will be difficult to expand this portion of Highway 10 and achieve the vision of a freeway facility in the immediate future. To reduce crashes and improve mobility issues, it is reasonable and responsible to implement low-cost, interim measures that incrementally improve safety and operations for all users of the Highway 10 corridor.

The intent of this study is to identify high-benefit improvements that are fiscally responsible so that improvements can be funded, programmed, and implemented incrementally. The price paid for waiting for funding to construct expensive, comprehensive improvements will be continued congestion, numerous conflict points, and continued severe and fatal crashes.