

Highway bill overdue

New Ulm 05/01/02



The Highway 14 Partnership didn't have much to be optimistic about this week when they met to review progress on getting the highway improved.

In a year when everyone from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to the state's largest labor unions agreed that it's about time Minnesota starts dedicating more money to highway projects, the Legislature entirely ducked the issue. No transportation funding bill was approved this year, which means we'll see another year of highway improvement needs growing bigger and more expensive to fix.

This year's experience certainly proves the need for an advocacy group like the Highway 14 Partnership to keep the pressure on lawmakers to develop a meaningful transportation policy and to devote the resources needed to make the policy work. And yes, Republicans in the Legislature, that means raising the gasoline tax that hasn't been changed since 1988.