

Gov. Pawlenty celebrates opening of Hwy 14, announces further expansion Waseca to Owatonna

Janesville, Minn – Governor Tim Pawlenty and Lt. Gov./Transportation Commissioner Carol Molnau today joined community leaders and transportation officials in celebrating the completion of Hwy 14 between Janesville and Waseca. The \$35 million project features 12 additional miles of four-lane roadway.

The 2003 Pawlenty-Molnau Transportation Finance package helped finance and accelerate work on Hwy 14. With the 2003 funding, Mn/DOT was able to complete the project this year instead of 2009 as previously scheduled.

"Since 2003, our administration has invested more money in transportation projects than any time in the history of the state," Governor Pawlenty said. "As a result, we are finishing this stretch of Highway 14 three years ahead of schedule. That's important because it helps link a number of important communities, job providers and agricultural centers together, helping our red-hot economy grow even more."

Governor Pawlenty and Lt. Gov. Molnau also announced that construction of a four-lane expansion of Hwy 14 from Waseca to Owatonna will begin in 2008. Completion is scheduled for 2011.

"This \$130 million expansion project will continue the improvements we have seen thus far on Highway 14 to improve safety and mobility," said Lt. Gov. Molnau. "The Highway 14 corridor has needed improvement for a long time and we are excited that we are able to secure the funds needed to get this next phase going."

Today's event was hosted by the City of Janesville and Waseca County and took place at the new interchange with Waseca County Road 3 on the south edge of Janesville.

Work on Hwy 14 from Waseca County Road 60 on the west side of Janesville to Waseca County Road 2 on the west edge of Waseca began in July 2004, Mathiowetz Construction of Sleepy Eye is the primary contractor.

Mn/DOT officials are strongly advising the public to stay alert as motorists learn to use the new highway and its connections. Whether using the local roads, the temporary Hwy 14 connection near Waseca or the new four-lane expressway from Janesville to Waseca, motorists should be aware of the signing and traffic control devices.

Changes include:

- A traffic signal where motorists transition from the new four-lane to the existing Hwy 14 in

Waseca

- Railroad crossing arms at west edge of Waseca
- Speed reductions in the area of Waseca County Roads 2 and 27
- A left turn lane added for new westbound Hwy 14 traffic at the connection with Waseca County Road 2
- Some local roads that intersected with old Hwy 14 may now have limited access or no longer connect with Hwy 14.
- Ramps to Waseca County Road 60 west of Janesville remain under construction until later this fall (late October).
- Old Hwy 14 will be closed at the intersection with Waseca County Road 17. And County Road 17 will be closed to the north for safety improvements to the intersection until later this fall. Temporary access to Crystal Valley Co-op will be provided from the new four-lane Hwy 14.