
Thumbs Up/Down

Improve Highway 14 ^{9/29/01}



One of Rep. Mark Kennedy's campaign issues was that he would fight hard for transportation improvements in the district. We hope this means he will work hard to get money needed to improve Highway 14.

Each year at the Minnesota State Fair a coalition of Minnesota highway construction firms conducts an unscientific survey asking people to vote for the worst roads in the state. For the past couple of years, Highway 14 has been voted the worst non-metro highway in the state, and we certainly agree.

There are plans in the works to expand the road to four lanes from Rochester to Mankato, and Mankato to New Ulm, but the timetable is a long one because the funding just isn't there.

On Friday, members of the Highway 14 Partnership met with Kennedy to explain their views on Highway 14 and why the work should be speeded up. It will cost about \$32 million in federal funds to move the timetable for improvements up about three years, which would still mean a lot of people would probably buy a new car or two before the project is completed.