



For Immediate Release: October 7, 2014

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Corridors of Commerce Announcement Yields Further Progress for Highway 14

Today, Governor Mark Dayton announced \$70 million in Corridors of Commerce funding for 13 projects throughout the state. Highway 14 again received significant investment from this transportation funding program.

“The U.S. Highway 14 Partnership is very pleased with the progress that the Corridors of Commerce program continues to bring to the expansion of Highway 14,” said Partnership President/New Ulm Mayor Bob Beussman. “The two Highway 14 investments announced today were recommended priorities of the Partnership, getting important projects ready to go for when a statewide transportation investment is passed.”

For the segment between Owatonna and Dodge Center, Highway 14 received \$7.3 million to purchase right-of-way needed for “Phase 2” expansion (between 54th Ave and CR 16). This is in addition to the \$1.5 million that was awarded for right-of-way acquisition in June 2014. MnDOT estimates the total right-of-way costs between Owatonna and Dodge Center at \$25-28 million.

The intersection of Highway 14 and Highway 15 in New Ulm also received \$700,000 for preliminary design work. In a 2012 MnDOT Safety Audit, the 14/15 intersection was identified as having a “significantly greater than expected crash rates” and the “most complex geometry of any intersection on the corridor.” The audit suggested that the intersection should be improved when the adjacent Minnesota River Bridge is replaced in 2018. This Corridors of Commerce funding will allow MnDOT to study design options to help the intersection project be ready for the bridge reconstruction, limiting traffic impact and maximizing taxpayer dollars.

“The U.S. Highway 14 Partnership would like to thank the Governor and Commissioner Zelle for the support they have given to Highway 14, along with the local legislators who have worked so hard to provide funding for the Corridors of Commerce program,” said Beussman. “Highway 14 is southern Minnesota’s most important economic corridor—we will keep advocating for the resources we need until we have four lanes from Rochester to New Ulm.”

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