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Partnership President: Deadly crashes emphasize the need for viable plan to fix Highway 14

Below is a statement from Karen Foreman, president of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership and a member of the Mankato City Council, regarding the two fatal vehicle accidents on the same two-lane stretch of Highway 14 within a 24-hour period:

"What is it going to take to finally fix Highway 14? Two deadly crashes in less than 24 hours needs to be wake-up call that we need action now. Right now, it seems like no one has a clear path forward for Highway 14. The Corridors of Commerce program is ineffective in its current form, and it is apparent that we can't rely on the federal government.

"It is time for everyone involved — Governor Walz, Commissioner Kelliher, the Legislature, local advocates — to roll up our sleeves and come together with a plan to fix Highway 14 so that we can hopefully prevent tragedies like this from happening in the future."

The U.S. Highway 14 Partnership is an advocacy organization supporting the four-lane expansion of Highway 14. Formed in 1998, the Partnership includes local governments, private businesses and other organizations across Southern Minnesota. Follow the Partnership on online at <u>ushighway14.com</u> and on Twitter at <u>@Hwy14Pshp</u>.

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