



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Minnesota Senate Approves Highway 14 Legislation

Yesterday, the Minnesota Senate passed legislation that will mandate completion of two unfinished environmental impact statements along Highway 14 in southern Minnesota: one from New Ulm to North Mankato, a second from Owatonna to Dodge Center. The legislation was included in the Senate Transportation Policy omnibus bill (HF 928), which now moves to a conference committee with the House, expected this week.

“I’m extremely pleased that the Minnesota Senate recognizes the importance of fixing highway 14 now,” said Highway 14 President and North Mankato Mayor Gary Zellmer. “Completing these two unfinished environmental impact statements moves Highway 14 significantly closer to completion, which means safer roads, more jobs and a stronger community. I strongly urge the House to join the Senate and get this job done.”

The EIS legislation, originally authored by Rep. Terry Morrow (DFL – St. Peter) and Sen. Kathy Sheran (DFL – Mankato), has traveled a long road at the Legislature – with hearings in three committees before final approval on the Senate floor. The legislation would require that MnDOT complete the New Ulm – North Mankato and Dodge Center – Owatonna environmental impact statements by December 31, 2009. Once completed, the local communities and businesses along the corridor would be better prepared to begin planning for future growth along the corridor.

Two Highway 14 legislators – Rep. Terry Morrow (DFL – St. Peter) and Sen. Dick Day (R – Owatonna) are members of the key conference committee that will ultimately determine whether or not the Highway 14 legislation advances to the governor.

“We are very close to getting these two environmental impact statements done,” said Zellmer. “It’s now up to our legislators – especially Rep. Morrow and Sen. Day – to keep moving this project forward.”

The U.S. highway 14 Partnership is a public-private advocacy organization supporting the four-lane expansion of Trunk Highway 14 in southern Minnesota between New Ulm and Rochester. Formed in 1998, the Highway 14 Partnership lobbies at both the state and federal levels of government.

For more information, please contact J.D. Burton at 651-225-8840 or visit the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership website at www.ushighway14.com.

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