



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Bipartisan Legislation to Fix Highway 14 Unveiled**

Bipartisan legislation to complete the four-lane expansion of Highway 14 between New Ulm and Rochester was introduced in the House and Senate this week. The legislation is authored by Representative Terry Morrow (DFL – St. Peter) in the House, and Senate Minority Leader Dave Senjem (R – Rochester) in the Senate. Original co-authors in the House are Rep. Kory Kath (DFL – Owatonna), Rep. Kathy Brynaert (DFL – Mankato), Rep. Paul Torkelson (R – Nelson Township), Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), Rep. Patti Fritz (DFL – Faribault). Original co-author in the Senate is Sen. Kathy Sheran (DFL – Mankato).

“The people of southern Minnesota have been waiting too long for this project to get done,” said North Mankato Mayor and U.S. Highway 14 Partnership President Gary Zellmer. “Delay after delay has endangered the lives of citizens and inhibited the economic vitality of our region. Any more delays are unacceptable. It’s time to fix Highway 14 now.”

The legislation will appropriate over \$650 million in state money to purchase right-of-way along the corridor and complete major construction. The legislation will also require the Minnesota Department of Transportation complete two unfinished environmental impact statements by the end of 2009.

Upon introduction of the legislation, Rep. Morrow stated, "Highway 14 is the backbone of southern Minnesota's highway infrastructure. Providing safe roads connecting livable communities helps farmers, business, and families. For too long, failure to complete the four-lane expansion of Highway 14 has created additional safety risks and inhibited economic growth in our area. This bipartisan legislation goes a long way toward securing the safety and economic vitality of southern Minnesota residents."

Sen. Senjem had similar remarks. “The Department of Transportation has been working on this project for decades, yet it still is not done,” said Sen. Senjem. “As we continue to wait, accidents or near misses along the highway pile up. With this legislation, we can finally complete this important project, keep our citizens safe, and help strengthen our economy in the process.”

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](http://www.ushighway14.com).

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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION**

**HOUSE FILE No. 270**

January 26, 2009

Authored by Morrow, Kath, Brynaert, Torkelson, Gunther and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to transportation; requiring completion of environmental impact  
1.3 statements; appropriating money for right-of-way acquisition, design,  
1.4 construction, and reconstruction of marked Trunk Highway 14.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**

1.7 The commissioner of transportation shall complete an environmental impact  
1.8 statement relating to the segment of marked Trunk Highway 14 from the city of New Ulm  
1.9 to County State-Aid Highway 6 in the county of Nicollet no later than June 30, 2009.

1.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

1.11 Sec. 2. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**

1.12 The commissioner of transportation shall complete an environmental impact  
1.13 statement relating to the segment of marked Trunk Highway 14 from its intersection  
1.14 with marked Trunk Highway 218 in Owatonna to marked Trunk Highway 56 in Dodge  
1.15 Center no later than December 31, 2009.

1.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

1.17 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATIONS; RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION.**

1.18 \$63,000,000 is appropriated from the trunk highway fund to the commissioner of  
1.19 transportation for fiscal year 2010 for right-of-way acquisition related to the construction  
1.20 and reconstruction of marked Trunk Highway 14. These appropriations are available  
1.21 until expended. Of this amount:

2.1 (1) \$35,000,000 is for right-of-way acquisition for marked Trunk Highway 14 from  
2.2 the city of New Ulm to County State-Aid Highway 6 in the county of Nicollet;

2.3 (2) \$4,000,000 is for right-of-way acquisition for an interchange at marked Trunk  
2.4 Highway 14 and County State-Aid Highway 41 in the county of Nicollet;

2.5 (3) \$4,000,000 is for right-of-way acquisition for marked Trunk Highway 14 from  
2.6 its intersection with marked Trunk Highway 13 to the east Waseca County line; and

2.7 (4) \$20,000,000 is for right-of-way acquisition for marked Trunk Highway 14 from  
2.8 its intersection with marked Trunk Highway 218 in Owatonna to its intersection with  
2.9 marked Trunk Highway 56 in Dodge Center.

2.10 **Sec. 4. APPROPRIATIONS; CONSTRUCTION.**

2.11 \$592,000,000 is appropriated from the trunk highway fund to the commissioner  
2.12 of transportation for fiscal year 2010 for right-of-way acquisition, predesign, design,  
2.13 construction, and reconstruction of marked Trunk Highway 14. These appropriations are  
2.14 available until expended. Of this amount:

2.15 (1) \$270,000,000 is for marked Trunk Highway 14 from the city of New Ulm to  
2.16 County State-Aid Highway 6 in the county of Nicollet;

2.17 (2) \$21,000,000 is for an interchange at marked Trunk Highway 14 and County  
2.18 State-Aid Highway 41 in the county of Nicollet;

2.19 (3) \$56,000,000 is for marked Trunk Highway 14 from its intersection with marked  
2.20 Trunk Highway 13 to the east Waseca County line;

2.21 (4) \$65,000,000 is for marked Trunk Highway 14 from its intersection with the west  
2.22 Steele County line to marked Interstate Highway 35 in Owatonna; and

2.23 (5) \$180,000,000 is for marked Trunk Highway 14 from its intersection with marked  
2.24 Trunk Highway 218 in Owatonna to marked Trunk Highway 56 in Dodge Center.