

NETFLIX Instantly watch *The Lincoln Lawyer* today!

Instantly watch movies 1 MONTH FREE TRIAL Click here

News Sports Legals Opinion Forums Food Sections Extras Ads Jobs Local Classifieds CU Customer Service

Local News

/ News / Local News /

- Local News
- MN State News
- National News
- International News
- Obituaries
- Opinion
- Lifestyle
- Monday Business
- Agribusiness
- Community
- Local Photos
- SUBMIT News

« Encore performance for 'Meet... Tax-forfeited land to be sol...»

Lobbying for Highway 14 expansion continues

Safety, commerce are key points in testimony before House committee

February 28, 2013

By Josh Moniz - Staff Writer , The Journal

[Save](#) | [Post a comment](#) |

ST. PAUL - The Highway 14 four-lane expansion funding bill got a hearing Wednesday in the Minnesota House's Transportation Finance committee.

The House bill, which has a companion bill that already received a hearing in the Senate, would allocate \$409 million to complete the remaining portions of Highway 14 needing a four-lane expansion between Dodge Center and Owatonna and between east of Nicollet and New Ulm. The allocation, which would be put aside for five years, is approximately \$22.6 million down from the initially proposed allocation after Minnesota Department of Transportation updated its cost estimate.

Advocates of the four-lane expansion project have sought a four-lane Highway 14 from Rochester to New Ulm for more than 50 years. The project addresses structural issues with the layout of the two-lane portions of the roadway that increase the danger of head-on collisions. An 2012 audit by MnDOT showed the stretch from North Mankato to New Ulm had a fatal crash rate three times the average for similar highways in the state.

Article Photos



New Ulm Chamber of Commerce President Audra ...

The testimony supporting the project was primarily given by the membership of the Highway 14 Partnership, which lobbies for the

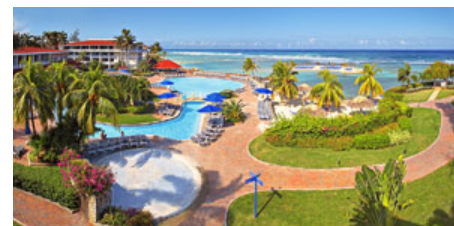
New Ulm, MN 30°F [Extended Forecast](#) [Find Another Location](#)
Data provided by The Weather Channel ©

News, Blogs & Events

I am looking for:

in:

- News, Blogs & Events
- Web



\$699: Jamaica All-Incl. w/Air

Fly roundtrip to Jamaica and spend six ALL-INCLUSIVE nights at a beachfront resort.* Sale ends 3/1.

[Learn more »](#)

As seen on TRAVELZOO

NetSpend® Prepaid Cards

NetSpend.com/Tax-Refund
Get Your Tax Refund Faster w/ Direct Deposit! Sign Up Today AdChoices

New 2013 Business Grants

www.NewUSAFunding.com
Start Applying Now. Find Top Grants Deadlines are Approaching FAdChoices

New Personal Grant Apps

www.USAFundingApplications.org
Start Applying Now with the Top Personal Funding Applications! AdChoices

project.

New Ulm Chamber of Commerce President Audra Shaneman said the four-lane project is essential for the more than 1,000 trucks that are affiliated with business and manufacturing in New Ulm. She said the two-lane portion near New Ulm adds burdensome costs to companies and hampers expansions for area manufacturing.

"For over 40 years, New Ulm businesses have had to adapt to an inadequate road, and I am here today to advocate for them and their future success," said Shaneman.

The rest of the testimony focused on the road's dangerous nature with an emphasis on personal losses.

Beth Hodgman of Wesst Concord testified that she lost her husband Scott to a fatal accident on Highway 14 on Nov. 6. The accident also took the life of a young boy who commuted to Rochester for cancer treatment. In addition, Hodgman's parents and sister were involved in a serious accident in 2000.

"Highway 14 is a patchwork highway that's been under construction since the late 1960s. How many more people must lose their lives until we find funding for this road?" said Hodgman, "On an average, somebody dies on this highway every two months."

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill later this session. The related House bill, which also has a Senate companion bill, is also being held over for the omnibus bill.

(Josh Moniz can be e-mailed at jmoniz@nujournal.com)

© Copyright 2013 The Journal. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

[Save](#) | [Post a comment](#) |

[Recommend](#)

[Send](#)

2 people recommend this.

0

[Subscribe to The Journal](#)

[Mortgage Quality Control](#)

www.adfitech.com

QC and Fraud Detection. Fulfillment and Delivery Services



AdChoices

The Journal

303 N. Minnesota , New Ulm, MN 56073 | 507-359-2911

© 2013. All rights reserved. | [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)