

Hwy. 14 gets \$8 million funding boost

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Two Highway 14 projects are among the \$70 million in spending announced Tuesday as part of the latest round of the Corridors of Commerce transportation program.

Highway 14's intersection with Highway 15 in New Ulm would receive \$700,000 in preliminary design work. Also, \$7.3 million was allocated to purchase land for the expansion between Owatonna and Dodge Center.

The state said the new intersection in New Ulm would improve a bottleneck at a key freight corridor connection.

More than half of the new funding, \$45 million, went to a four-lane expansion of Highway 371 between Nisswa and Jenkins, in northern Minnesota.

Previous Corridors of Commerce funding helped to speed up funding of Highway 14's four-lane expansion between North Mankato and Nicollet, as well as a bypass of Nicollet. Those projects, which are set to begin next year, are estimated to cost \$35 million to \$53 million.

The Legislature and governor appropriated more than \$331 million into the Corridors of Commerce initiative in 2013 and 2014.