

# Proposed Interchange at CSAH 44 and TH 14

## OLMSTED COUNTY MINNESOTA

***Olmsted County is requesting a \$21,760,000 state capital investment for the construction of a proposed interchange at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 (formerly County Road 104) and Trunk Highway (TH) 14 and an associated flyover structure at 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Olmsted County received funding in the 2020 bonding bill to begin design and environmental work. Funding for construction is still needed.***

### Background and Need

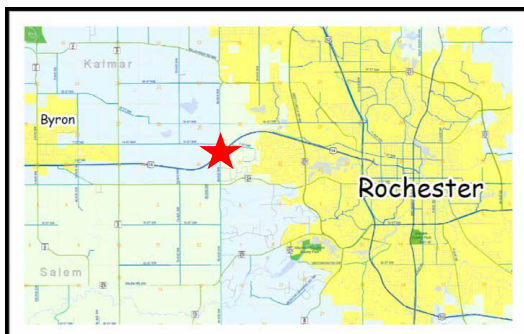
Constructing an interchange at CSAH 44 and TH 14 and the associated flyover structure at 7th Street NW will address three main goals: safety, mobility, and capacity/growth.

**Safety:** The intersection of CSAH 44 and TH 14 in Olmsted County is located on the west side of Rochester. CSAH 44 intersects TH 14 at a skewed angle and subsequently has significant safety concerns due to that and the number of vehicles passing through the intersection. TH 14 carries 30,000 vehicles per day traveling at 65 MPH and CSAH 44 has 3,000 per day at this location. Crashes at the intersection average 10-13 per year and there has been a recent fatality.



*Aerial view of CSAH 44/TH 14 intersection*

Based on traffic volumes at the intersection, the MnDOT Access Management Manual indicates high-risk conditions for vehicles on CSAH 44 trying to find an adequate gap in traffic flows on TH 14. Drone video footage of the intersection taken during the morning peak of 7 – 7:30 a.m. demonstrates these high-risk conditions ([2-minute compilation](#); [9-minute compilation](#)).



The proposed interchange removes two at-grade intersections which will eliminate 64 conflict points and will greatly improve safety of this portion of the TH 14 corridor.

**Mobility:** TH 14 is a regional corridor serving as a primary commuter route from the west into Rochester. The proposed interchange at CSAH 44/TH 14 will improve the regional corridor for commuters into Rochester, as well as a regional freight route, and provide safe access to existing commercial and residential

development. The recent opening of the expansion project from Owatonna to Dodge Center completes the TH 14 four-lane corridor from Mankato to Rochester. This creates an attractive, access-controlled route that has the potential to increase traffic on TH 14 through the CSAH 44 intersection. The recently completed TH 14 Corridor Analysis Project established a long-term vision for TH 14 between Rochester and Kasson. The implementation plan from the analysis project identified construction of an interchange at the CSAH 44 intersection as an immediate, short-term (5 year) improvement, and one of the first projects to fulfill the corridor vision.

**Capacity/growth:** The proposed interchange will not only address safety and mobility concerns but will also support future growth for the region. Due to its location within the Rochester future urban growth boundary, the interchange will provide access for future growth and economic development. Additionally, the interchange is identified as a need in the Long-Range Transportation Plan of the Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments.

CSAH 44 was recently renamed from the former County Road (CR) 104. The new designation reflects planning efforts which indicate a higher functioning roadway, providing regional connectivity and capacity. A significant improvement project on CSAH 44, just north of the proposed interchange is scheduled for construction in 2022/2023. Expected growth indicates CSAH 44 will become a future four-lane facility.

## Project Details

The project consists of a proposed interchange at CSAH 44 and TH 14, and an associated flyover structure at 7th Street NW. Infrastructure elements include four bridge structures, retaining walls, pavement, lighting, and active transportation facilities. Upon completion, two at-grade intersections and 64 conflict points will be eliminated.

The 2020 Minnesota Legislature designated \$6 million of general obligations bonds and \$2.54 million of trunk highway funds was made available for environmental documentation, design, and right of way acquisition. Funding for construction of the interchange and flyover is still needed.



## Project timeline

- Preliminary design and environmental documentation - now through December 2022
- Right of way acquisition – Spring 2022 through December 2023
- Detail design and construction documents – December 2022 through December 2023
- Construction – 2024 and 2025

## Legislative Priority/Bonding Request

Olmsted County requests \$17,460,000 in trunk highway bonds for the estimated remaining state share of the project and \$4,300,000 in general obligation bonds for the estimated remaining county share of the project.

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