

117th Street Reconstruction and Modernization Project

An Industrial Transportation Corridor Benefiting the State and Region

117th Street in Inver Grove Heights is an essential transportation corridor for utilities and industry serving the state and region. Those that rely on the roadway for their daily operations include:

- **Republic Services.** The largest trash disposal operation in the state operates at what is known as the Pine Bend Landfill. Waste haulers around the region rely on this facility.
- **Xcel Energy.** Natural gas for service to Xcel customers across Minnesota originates from this large facility.
- Rich Valley Blvd Litrin St E
- Flint Hills Resources. The FHR refinery operation on 117th employs thousands of people and provides vital services to the region. This facility provides multiple grades of petroleum products used across

the state and region. Much of the asphalt material used in road construction in the metro area is also generated here.

- **Purina Distribution Center and Land O' Lakes Feed.** A 600,000-square-foot facility providing animal food products serving the Midwest and beyond.
- Kane Transportation. A large tanker truck company providing distribution for industries in the immediate area and beyond. Kane has 180 employees operating out of its Inver Grove Heights location.
- Swift Transportation. One terminal of a national transportation trucking company with over 14,000 trucks in operation across the continent.

Thriving Industries Need Modern Infrastructure

To access and serve these heavy commercial enterprises, we have 117th Street, a two-lane, rural roadway constructed in 1960. In its current condition, the road lacks shoulders, turn lanes, and public utilities such as watermain and sanitary sewer. There are two active at-grade railroad crossings, and multiple high-capacity, high-pressure gas lines and high-voltage power lines providing energy to the greater Twin Cities region and beyond. 117th Street is heavily congested with perhaps the highest truck-to-vehicle ratio in the state for a local road.

The road must be upgraded, but so too must consideration be given to environmental challenges, such as stormwater collection and treatment, potential contaminated soil remediation, and accommodation of adjacent landfill leachate runoff into City and Metropolitan Council sanitary sewer systems. Local dollars are not available to address the multitude of regional challenges that are driving the need for this project.

The Ask

The estimated total project cost of improving and modernizing 117th Street is \$24.2 million. In order to meet the timeline necessary to retain a sizable federal grant, the City is requesting \$5 million in state support. The project schedule calls for completion of preliminary design in early 2023, final design, right-of-way acquisition, and private utility relocation in 2023-2024, and construction in late 2024 through 2026.

ETHICS EXCELLENCE ENGAGEMENT



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Map and images of 117th Street and surrounding area.



(BELOW) A lack of turn lanes on 117th Street leads to a back-up of truck traffic, which causes delays and creates a safety hazard.





Traffic turns onto 117th Street from Highway 52.



Several unimproved railroad crossings intersect 117th Street, creating additional traffic hazards.



117th currently dead ends into Rich Valley Boulevard, another busy thoroughfare, where trucks must turn into traffic after stopping at a stop sign. The proposed project will realign this intersection and reduce turning movements.