

Hwy 55 Four-Lane Expansion from CR 118 to CSAH 19 Project Justification Points

- Traffic Capacity
 - Current annual average daily traffic (AADT) along TH 55 in the project area is 15,800 vehicles per day (2019).
 - Heavy commercial volume of 475 vehicles per day (2021).
 - This equates to a volume to capacity ratio of 1.6, assuming a planning-level capacity for a two-lane undivided roadway of 10,000 vehicles per day.
 - This Project is locally and regionally significant since TH 55 is classified as a [National Highway System \(NHS\)](#) route and a [Tier 2 Regional Truck Corridor](#).
 - Consistent with MnDOT's Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan.
 - The added capacity with the expansion from two to four lanes will have a significant reduction in congestion. Reduced congestion and delay also equate to reduced carbon emissions.
- Safety
 - Between 2017 and 2021 there were a total of 123 crashes along TH 55 between Arrowhead Drive and CR 19, including one fatality, one serious injury crash, 16 minor injury crashes and 16 possible injury crashes.
 - A critical index of 1.55 indicates that the crash rate along this segment of TH 55 is 1.5 times greater than the expected, normal range for similar trunk highways statewide.
 - Adding a median will have a significant reduction in the frequency of crashes.
- Land Use & Continued Growth in western suburbs
 - Western Hennepin County and Wright County continue to see growth and development pressures. This trend is expected to continue.
- Freight and Commuter corridor
 - TH 55 provides important connections between Hennepin and Wright counties and communities and industries across northwestern Minnesota.
 - Trips starting in Hennepin or Wright counties account for nearly 84% of all traffic on the corridor.
 - 50 counties served as an origin for trips along this corridor.
- System Planning
 - TH 55 is a parallel reliever route to I-94 and provides an important vehicle and freight connection to numerous cities including Annandale and Buffalo.
 - Connections with CSAH 19 provide important system connectivity for vehicles in and out of the metropolitan area from western Minnesota.
- Multi-modal (BRT and Three Rivers Park District)
 - CSAH 19 intersection includes improvements for Lake Independence Regional Trail crossing.
 - The Project addresses the System Stewardship and Healthy Communities policy areas from MnDOT's Statewide Multimodal Policy Plan (SMPP) by supporting transit service.
 - TH 55 was identified as having strong potential for a future [Bus Rapid Transit \(BRT\) service](#) given the high amount of commuter traffic currently using the corridor.