



Highway 55

Annandale to Rockford - District 3

Location

Annandale to Rockford

Municipalities

Annandale, Maple Lake, Buffalo and Rockford

Issue

Upgrade Highway 55 to a four-lane facility

Costs

Hwy 55	Const.	ROW	Total	Status
Annandale to Buffalo	\$30,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$44,000,000	Official ROW map completed
Buffalo	\$6,500,000	\$4,000,000	\$10,500,000	Constructed
Buffalo to Rockford	\$21,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$31,000,000	Official ROW map completed

Note: Right of way estimate could fluctuate greatly depending on when acquisition and/or protection start.

Background

Highway 55 is a high priority regional corridor. Highway 55 is an important link in connecting the Twin Cities to Central Minnesota and communities such as Rockford, Buffalo and Annandale. Highway 55 is currently a two-lane highway. Highway 55 is experiencing high traffic volumes, and Wright County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation.

Traffic Volume

In 2006, annual daily traffic volumes varied from 15,500 to 19,300 between Buffalo and Rockford, with 2030 projected volumes expected to be up to 34,000 in the same area. East of Annandale, 2006 volumes were 9,400, with 2030 volumes projected to be 15,200. Highway 55 is a heavy commuter route into the metro area. Recreational peak daily volumes can exceed these numbers.

Safety

From Annandale to Buffalo, there have been 15 fatal crashes and 35 crashes involving incapacitating injuries within the last 22 years. There has been one fatal crash in the last six years. From Buffalo to Rockford, there have been 12 fatal crashes and 52 crashes involving incapacitating injuries within the last 22 years. There were two fatal crashes in the past five years.

Status

Mn/DOT has developed official maps for the corridor that local agencies can adopt and use to help guide development. The maps show the existing highway and the amount of right of way needed for a future four-lane roadway.

In the Federal Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act, \$1.5 million was secured for Highway 55 from Annandale to Interstate 494. The money will be used to protect the future right of way on the existing highway corridor.

The Federal Transportation Bill "SAFETEA-LU" identified an additional \$4 million for Highway 55 from Annandale to Interstate 494. The money will be used to acquire right of way and fund safety improvement projects in advance of the overall corridor expansion.

An Environmental Assessment and a preliminary design of the future four-lane from Buffalo to Rockford are scheduled to start in 2008.

Contact

Claudia Dumont
Project Manager
320/223-6530

