

## Study Initiation

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in cooperation with the City of Henderson, Sibley County, Scott County, and LeSueur County, has initiated a feasibility study to investigate transportation improvements in the Minnesota River Valley to determine possible improvements that would minimize roadway closures due to flood events. The study will focus on the bridges and approach roadways for state Highway 19, Highway 93, and Sibley County Road 6. The Highway 93 and County Road 6 alternatives will primarily be related to elevating the roadway profiles above the 100-year flood elevation and the Highway 19 alternatives will study raising the bridge and roadway approaches above the flood elevation and an option aimed at improving the roadway stability and strategies to mitigate slope failures.

The goal of the study is to identify a safe and accessible, 10-ton route into and out of Henderson to limit the length of detours and impacts to businesses and regional traffic during high water events.

The feasibility study will take place through 2017 and will include the following key elements:

- Public and agency involvement
- Hydraulic model development and analysis (including bridge analysis)
- Traffic modeling and analysis
- Development and screening of conceptual design alternatives
- Feasibility report with findings and recommendations



## Background

Flooding in the Minnesota River Valley has created traffic and mobility challenges for MnDOT and local communities for decades. The roadways leading into and out of the City of Henderson (Highways 19 and 93 and County Road 6) have been hit especially hard in recent years, with closures due to flooding reaching an all-time high. During seasonal flooding events, residents and commuters traveling through the area have to resort to detours that take them miles out of their way, costing both time and money. The lengthy detours and restricted access to the Henderson Area can substantially impact local businesses and regional traffic.

As noted in the 2016 Henderson Comprehensive Plan, “every spring when the annual flooding of the Minnesota River begins, and every time a large rain storm is predicted in the summer, the level of concern rises with the water levels as townspeople ask themselves if this will be the next time that the roads into town are flooded or washed-out again and the community becomes stranded with only one way out.”



Source: Mankato Free Press

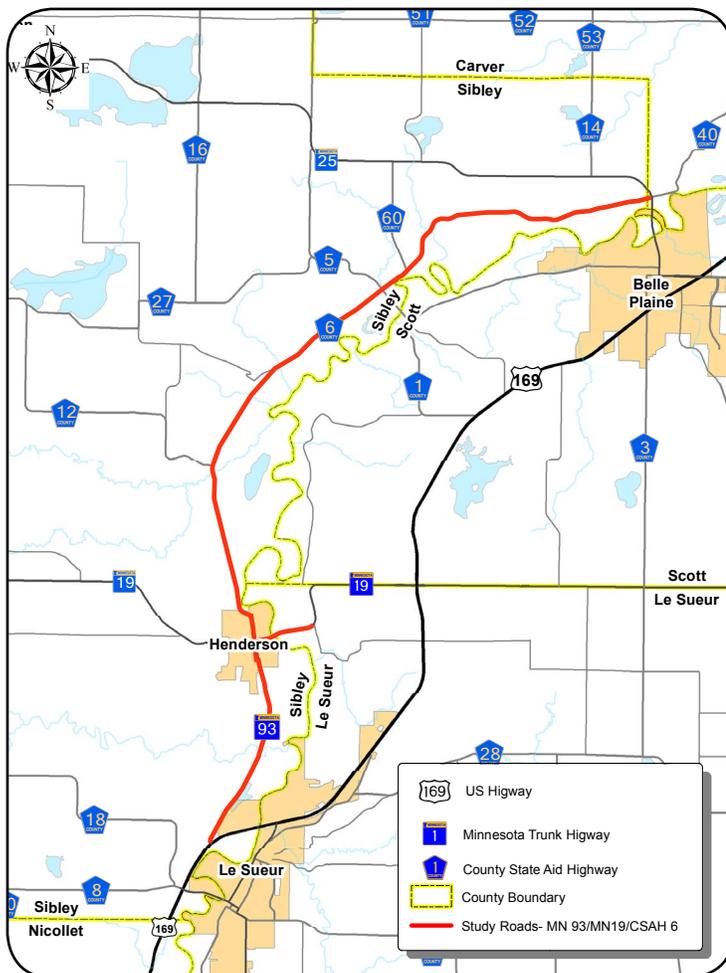
## Public Involvement

We encourage your participation and questions throughout the study process. MnDOT and the City of Henderson will be hosting two public open house meetings as part of the study process. The first public open house meeting will be held in Spring 2017. Detailed exhibits will be available for review, and staff will be present to answer questions and hear your comments. Each open house will be preceded by a newsletter. A final newsletter will be distributed at the completion of the study.

## Where can I get more information?

For the most up-to-date project information, visit:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy19study/index.html>



## Project Management Team

The Project Management Team (PMT), comprised of staff from MnDOT, local governmental units (city of Henderson and the counties of Sibley, Scott, and LeSueur) will meet regularly throughout the study process and serve as a communication link to constituents and elected officials. Meetings may also be held with environmental review and permitting agencies during the study period.

## Contact Us

**Matt Young**  
MnDOT Project Manager  
MnDOT District 7  
2151 Bassett Drive  
Mankato, MN 56001-6888  
Phone: 507.304.6183

Email: [matthew.young@state.mn.us](mailto:matthew.young@state.mn.us)