



## Highway 7 and Highway 71 Roundabout – District 8

### Project Overview:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is proposing to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Highways 7 and 71 near the city of Blomkest in southern Kandiyohi County. Construction is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2017.

Funding for this project is part of \$9 million in statewide special funding that was targeted towards improving safety on Minnesota highways. One of the selected projects from this statewide solicitation was a roundabout at the intersection of Highways 7 and 71. This intersection is near the state wide average for the number of crashes, but of those crashes that have occurred, several have been severe. The estimated \$1.9 million project will benefit both safety and mobility (reduced delays) at this intersection.

MnDOT will be selecting a consultant by early summer 2015 to begin the preliminary design process for the roundabout. The process will include evaluating the intersection to ensure the roundabout can accommodate all vehicles that use these highways, particularly since this intersection carries oversized loads. MnDOT will work closely with manufacturers and freight haulers to ensure that the proposed design will meet the vehicle needs while still improving safety at the intersection.

After completing the intersection evaluation, the consultant will then produce a preliminary layout of the roundabout. Once a preliminary layout for the roundabout has been completed, MnDOT will hold a public open house to review the proposed layout and preliminary roundabout design to answer any questions or comments.

### Benefits of a Roundabout:

- Roundabouts show an 89 percent decrease in fatal crashes, a 74 percent decrease in life-altering injury crashes and a 39 percent decrease in all crashes.
- Roundabouts handle high levels of traffic with less delay than stop signs or signals.
- The entry curves slow traffic, making entering and exiting easier, safer, and more efficient.
- Where roundabouts replace signals, idling decreases, which reduces vehicle emissions and fuel consumption by over 30 percent.

### Navigating a Roundabout:

- Slow down when approaching a roundabout.
- Yield to vehicles already in the roundabout. Merge into the traffic flow when it is safe.
- Continue through the roundabout until you reach your exit. Do not stop or pass other vehicles in a roundabout.
- Exit the roundabout immediately if an emergency vehicle approaches, and then pull over. Do not stop in the roundabout.
- Give large trucks extra space in a roundabout.

For more information on roundabouts and how to navigate them, go on the web at [www.dot.state.mn.us/roundabouts/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roundabouts/)

### For More Information

#### Contact:

Teal Spellman – Project Manager  
District 8  
320-214-6350  
[teal.spellman@state.mn.us](mailto:teal.spellman@state.mn.us)

or

Ryan Barney – District Traffic Engineer  
District 8  
320-214-6324  
[ryan.barney@state.mn.us](mailto:ryan.barney@state.mn.us)

March 2015

*Your Destination...Our Priority*

