

HIGHWAY 212 NEWSLETTER

Newsletter #1
November 2013

Carver to Norwood Young America
Corridor Access Management, Safety & Phasing Plan



Project Purpose

Carver County and the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition (SWCTC) have been pursuing the upgrade of the current roadway between the City of Carver and Norwood Young America. To achieve this purpose, Carver County and MnDOT are undergoing an 18 month planning effort to explore the best ways to address access, safety and mobility by staging improvements over time, especially for the 4.6 mile segment between Carver and Cologne. In addition, the study will be looking at lower-cost ways to make improvements in the corridor while working towards the long-term conversion of the corridor to a four-lane facility.

While an approved concept plan and environmental document exists for the 4.6 mile segment between Carver and Cologne, funding for these improvements have not been identified. However, in the meantime, we want to continue with identifying affordable near-term solutions to prepare and work towards the ultimate vision on the corridor.

HIGHWAY 212

There is a need to address growing travel demand on the 212 corridor. This study will look at potential and affordable solutions to address the highest areas of need.

Funding Need

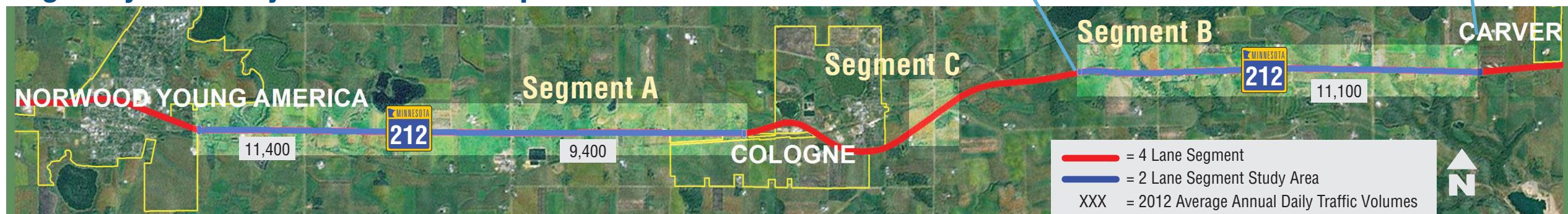
The estimated cost for the ultimate four-lane section (Segment B) is \$75 - \$85 million:

- \$5.0m ROW
- \$16m Design
- \$62m Construction

(Funding for this project has not been identified at this point in time.)



Highway 212 Project Corridor Map



Importance

Highway 212 is an important Principal Arterial route that connects western Minnesota with the Twin Cities. Highway 212 runs over 138 miles from the South Dakota State Line to I-494, connecting the Twins Cities and the cities of Cologne, Norwood Young America, Glencoe, Hector, Bird Island, Olivia, Renville, Granite Falls, Montevideo and Dawson.

The eastern portion of the corridor in Carver County was improved to a four-lane controlled access freeway through Chaska in 2009. However, two unimproved sections remain (between Carver and Cologne and between Cologne and Norwood Young America) where Highway 212 is a rural two-lane undivided highway with limited shoulders. The segments have high traffic with large volumes of freight moving from western Minnesota to river and rail terminals in the Shakopee/Savage area.

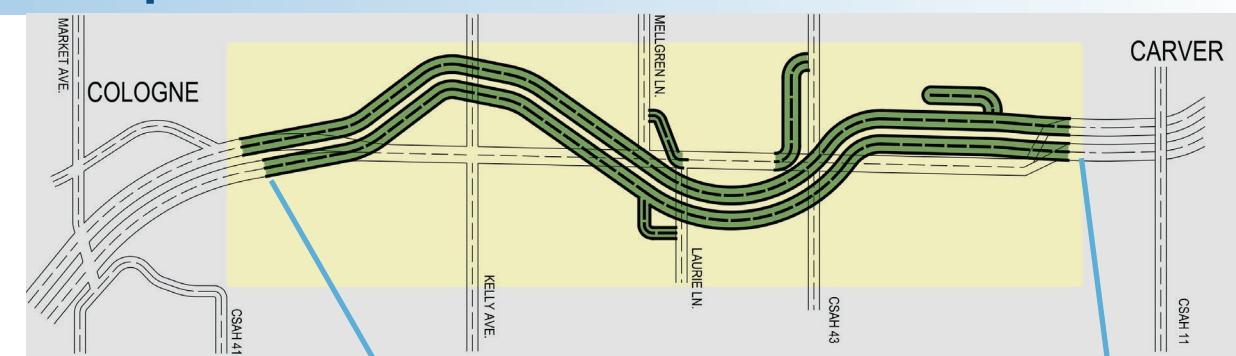
Get Engaged

The first open house will be held on November 14, 2013. This open house will follow the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition's (SWCTC) Town Hall meeting. Please join us for both meetings at the Chaska Community Center (1661 Park Ridge Dr, Chaska, MN 55318). The SWCTC Town Hall meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be directly followed by the Highway 212 open house at 6:30 p.m. County and MnDOT staff will be on hand to gather input from stakeholders and residents, and to discuss the study.

Project Schedule

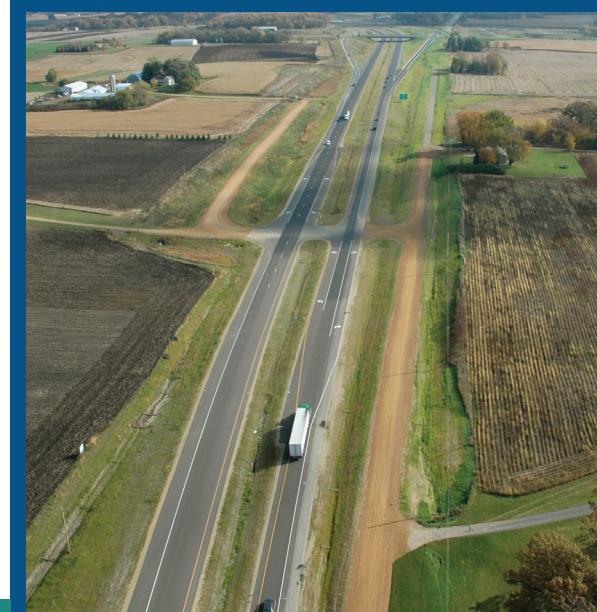
This 18 month effort will occur in two phases. The first phase is expected to end in January/February of 2014. During this period, the County and MnDOT will explore various strategies for making improvements between Carver and Norwood Young America; develop an access management plan, safety and right-of-way acquisition plan, and identify potential funding sources. The second phase of the study will begin in early 2014 and continue until the end of 2014. This phase will focus on the implementation of selected strategies. Strategies may include design, right-of-way appraisals and acquisitions, a funding plan, and implementing interim access/safety improvements. A full schedule of activities is posted on the project website at www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/212cologne/

Proposed Ultimate 4-Lane Vision



Highway 212 Facts

- Many local governments along the corridor from the South Dakota State line to the Twin Cities have passed resolutions (41 total) supporting the upgrade to Highway 212 in Carver County.
- Traffic volumes for the corridor in year 2030 are forecasted to increase between 21,000 and 28,000 vehicles per day, or two to three times the existing traffic volumes, exceeding the capacity of the existing two-lane facility.
- The gap between Cologne and Carver (Segment B) has a high-risk intersection (CSAH 43) as a result of large traffic volumes along the corridor and side streets, which impact the safety of vehicles entering or crossing Highway 212.
- 3.0 million heavy commercial vehicle miles travel annually on the segment between Cologne and Carver (Segment B).
- Heavy commercial vehicles travel 58,000 hours annually on the segment between Cologne and Carver (Segment B).



Highway 212 Access Management Study
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One Carlson Parkway North, Suite 150
Minneapolis, MN 55447-4443

Postage

Mailing Label

HIGHWAY**212**

Open House

November 14, 2013
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Chaska Community Center
1661 Park Ridge Dr, Chaska, MN 55318

Open House Agenda

- 5:30-6:30 p.m.
SWCTC Town Hall Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Highway 212 Open House

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