

Northwest Metro Transportation Needs Study

Bill HF4426 (Niska)

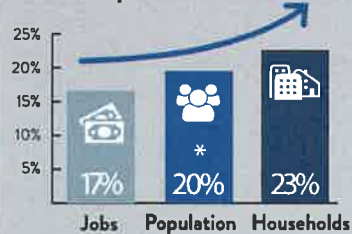
The Northwest Area Partners request funding to identify and advance a preferred vision for a new river crossing in the Northwest Twin Cities area. A 2021 Feasibility Study, led by MnDOT, confirmed the need and reviewed options for a new river crossing to balance regional traffic and support growth. Collectively, the existing Mississippi River crossings at Highways 101, 169, and 610 exceed capacity and experience congestion for several hours each day.

 The existing river crossings carry nearly **240,000 trips each day**, estimated to be at least **50% over their combined capacity**.

 Area peak congestion, ranges from **2 to 3.5 hours daily**, with commuters often using local roads to find alternative routes.

 Growth is rapidly occurring in northwest Hennepin County. Several cities plan to continue **intense development along major highway corridors**. Development in Dayton and Ramsey will soon limit options for a future river crossing.

Growth Expected (2020-2040)



*Combined area population growth estimated by 2040 = 133k to 159k (+26k)

Northwest Area Partners

Tourism Demand:

As the gateway to northern Minnesota, this crossing sees **4 times** more weekend and holiday traffic.



New River Crossing

Daily Needs Demand:

Short trips, typically for shopping.

Commute Demand:

Medium trips, typically to and from job centers.



New four-lane arterial with consideration for connections to both I-94 and 610.

Tier I & II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Estimate | \$5.0 Million

