



# 117th Street Reconstruction and Modernization Project

*Industrial, Transportation, and Commuter Hub for the State*

117th Street in Inver Grove Heights is an essential transportation corridor of local and regional significance. In addition to being a busy commuter route, it serves one of the largest hubs of industrial activity in the state, which provides vital goods and services to the Twin Cities metro area and beyond. Major commercial activity relying on the congested and substandard 117th Street corridor includes:

- **Flint Hills Resources, Refinery Operations and Corporate Headquarters.** The FHR refinery operation on 117th Street employs thousands of people and provides vital services to the region, including the FH and Pine Bend refineries. These facilities provide multiple grades of petroleum products used across the state and region. Much of the asphalt material used in road construction in the metro area is also generated here.
- **Xcel Energy.** Natural gas for service to Xcel customers across Minnesota originates from this large facility.
- **Republic/BFI Services.** The largest trash disposal operation in the state operates at what is known as the Pine Bend Landfill. Waste haulers around the region rely on this facility, and a large-scale gas recovery operation is in development to convert waste materials to energy.
- **Purina Distribution Center and Land O' Lakes Feed.** A 600,000-square-foot facility providing animal food products serving the Midwest and beyond.
- **Kane Transportation.** A large tanker truck company providing distribution for industries in the immediate area and beyond. Kane has 180 employees operating out of its Inver Grove Heights location.
- **Knight-Swift Transportation.** One terminal of a national transportation trucking company with over 14,000 trucks in operation across the continent.
- **Several dozen other smaller commercial operations** supporting the heavy industrial activity on and around 117th Street.



## Thriving Industries Need Modern Infrastructure

To access and serve these bustling, prosperous, heavy commercial enterprises, we have 117th Street, constructed in the 1960s. 117th links I35E on one end via Dakota County road 32, and TH 52. It is badly deteriorated, lacks shoulders, turn lanes, and even rudimentary safety features. It is heavily congested with perhaps the highest ratio of truck to vehicle traffic in the state for a local road, which can create a hazard.

The road must be upgraded, but local dollars are not available to deal with regional challenges, such as two active at-grade railroad crossings, which create significant delays for commerce activities when trucks must wait for trains. Multiple high-capacity, high-pressure gas lines and high-voltage power lines providing energy to the region also complicate any local solutions.

## The Ask

The estimated total project cost of improving and modernizing 117th Street is \$15,000,000. The City of Inver Grove Heights' request is for \$2,000,000. The project schedule calls for design in 2021, right-of-way acquisition and private utility relocation in 2022, and construction in 2023 and 2024.

**ETHICS | EXCELLENCE | ENGAGEMENT**

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# 117th Street Reconstruction and Modernization Project, *continued*

Map and images showing area of 117th Street as it relates to main thoroughfares.

