

### Stearns County and APO Studies

The APO is currently working with local jurisdictions on nine roadway studies, as shown in Table 6.5 and Figure 6.15 below. Stearns County is the lead agency on four of these studies: the West Metro Corridor/8<sup>th</sup> Street/Pinecone Road (item 1), the St. Joseph CSAH 2 Bypass (item 5), 33<sup>rd</sup> Street South (item 6), and the Southwest Beltway (item 7).

- The **West Metro Corridor** will provide a direct route from Sartell and the north side of St. Cloud to Waite Park via a new Sauk River crossing along County Road 134.
- The **St. Joseph CSAH 2 Bypass** would realign CSAH to the west of the city center, connecting it to CSAH 75 at CSAH 3. A second phase of the project (item 4) would complete the connection to CSAH 2 north of the city center.
- **33<sup>rd</sup> Street South** is an east-west connector planned between TH 15 and CSAH 75 on the south side of St. Cloud. It would ultimately connect with the Southwest Beltway (item 7).
- The **Southwest Beltway** is an extension of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street South corridor alignment. The alignment will likely run along the south side of Quarry Park, cross CSAH 137, Trunk Highway 23, and CSAH 75 and ultimately connect to CSAH 133 near CSAH 4.

Stearns County is participating as an advisory committee member on all other studies listed in Table 6.5. Many of the other Metro-area issues identified in the 1998 Transportation Plan are being addressed by these studies, including two projects in Sartell/Le Sauk Township, the 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue Environmental Assessment (item 8) and a study for an East-West Collector (item 9).

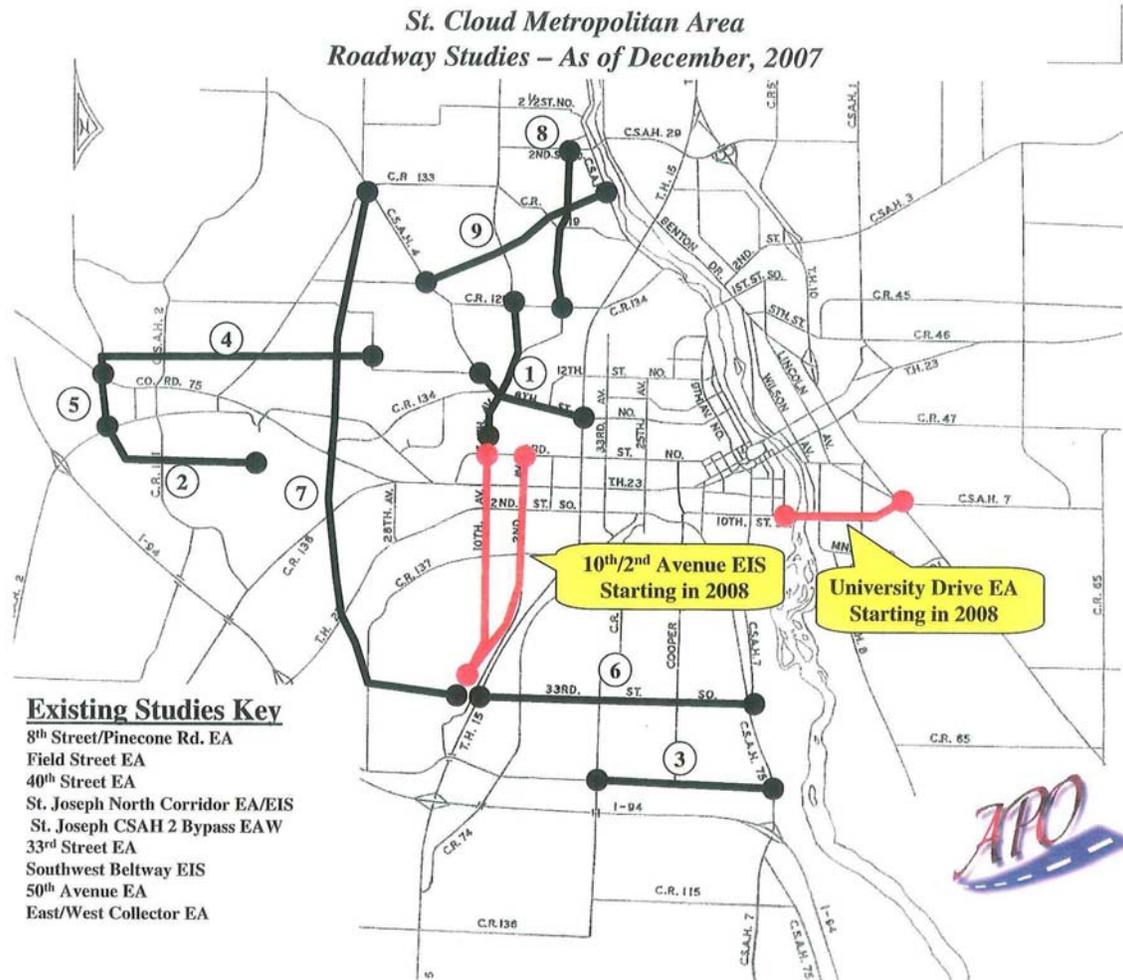
Stearns County is also considering a future study of the **Opportunity Drive** area for a collector roadway extension of CSAH 75 between CSAH 44 and the Opportunity Drive interchange, as identified in the I-94 Interregional Corridor Management Plan.

**Cold Spring CSAH 2 and 50 Study.** Stearns County is currently considering one study outside the St. Cloud APO jurisdiction, located in the City of Cold Spring and Wakefield Township. This study was initiated as a small area study in the 1998 Transportation Plan, with the goals of improving safety at the CSAH 2 and CSAH 50 intersection and alleviating congestion at the CSAH 2/Main Street intersection in downtown Cold Spring. Stearns County is currently studying a proposed railroad crossing at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, providing a new north-south route that could ultimately

# Stearns County Comprehensive Plan

connect to CSAH 50 north of the City. A new alignment of CSAH 49 south of TH 23 is planned to complete this “bypass.”

Figure 6.15



<b>Map #</b>	<b>Study Description</b>	<b>Study Termini</b>	<b>Study Type</b>	<b>Involved Jurisdictions</b>	<b>Study Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	8 <sup>th</sup> Street and Pinecone Rd (W. Metro Corridor)	CSAH 120 to Waite Park City Limits; Rolling Ridge Rd to TH 15	Environmental Assessment (EA)	Stearns, St. Cloud, Sartell Waite Park, St. Joseph, St. Joseph Twp., Le Sauk Twp & APO	Draft EA Complete – 30-Day Comment Period Complete	Phase I of Construction Programmed for FY 2009; \$10.2M of Federal Funding Approved for Project
2	Field Street – St. Joseph	20 <sup>th</sup> Ave to Stearns CSAH 2	Environmental Assessment (EA)	St. Joseph, St. Joseph Twp., Stearns & APO	Alternatives Analysis Underway	Study Funded with Federal ATP Funds & Local Funds Construction not Currently Programmed
3	40 <sup>th</sup> Street	Stearns CSAH 136 to Stearns CSAH 75	Environmental Assessment (EA)	St. Cloud, Stearns & APO	Draft EA Complete	Study Funded with Federal ATP Funds & Local Funds Construction not Currently Programmed
4	St. Joseph North Corridor	Rolling Ridge Road to Stearns CSAH 75	Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	St. Joseph, St. Joseph Twp., St. Cloud, Stearns & APO	Alternatives Analysis Underway	Study Funded with Federal ATP Funds & Local Funds Construction Not Currently Programmed
5	St. Joseph CSAH 2 Bypass	Stearns CSAH 75 to Stearns CSAH 2/I-94	Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)	St. Joseph, St. Joseph Twp., Stearns & APO	EAW Complete – 30-Day Comment Period Complete	Study Funded with Federal ATP Funds & Local Funds Construction Programmed for FY 2009 with Stearns County State Aid Funds
6	33 <sup>rd</sup> Street South	TH 15 to Stearns CSAH 75	Environmental Assessment (EA)	Waite Park, St. Cloud, Stearns County, MnDOT & APO	Alternatives Analysis Underway	Study Funded with Federal HPP Funds & Local Funds Construction not Currently Programmed – Interchange tentatively programmed for 2011
7	Southwest Beltway	TH 15/33 <sup>rd</sup> Street to Stearns CSAH4/ CSAH 133	Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping	Waite Park, St. Joseph, Sartell, Stearns County, St. Joseph Twp., Le Sauk Twp, MnDOT & APO	Study Underway	Study Funded with Federal HPP Funds & Local Funds Construction not Currently Programmed
8	50 <sup>th</sup> Avenue (Sartell)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Street South to Stearns CR 120	Environmental Assessment (EA)	Sartell, Le Sauk Twp, Stearns, ST. Cloud & APO	Alternatives Analysis Underway	Study Funded with Federal HPP Funds & Local Funds Construction not Currently Programmed
9	East/West Collector (Sartell)	Stearns CSAH 1 to Stearns CSAH 4	Environmental Assessment (EA)	Sartell, Le Sauk Twp, Stearns, ST. Cloud & APO	Alternatives Analysis Underway	Study Funded with Federal HPP Funds & Local Funds Construction not Currently Programmed

## Stearns County Comprehensive Plan

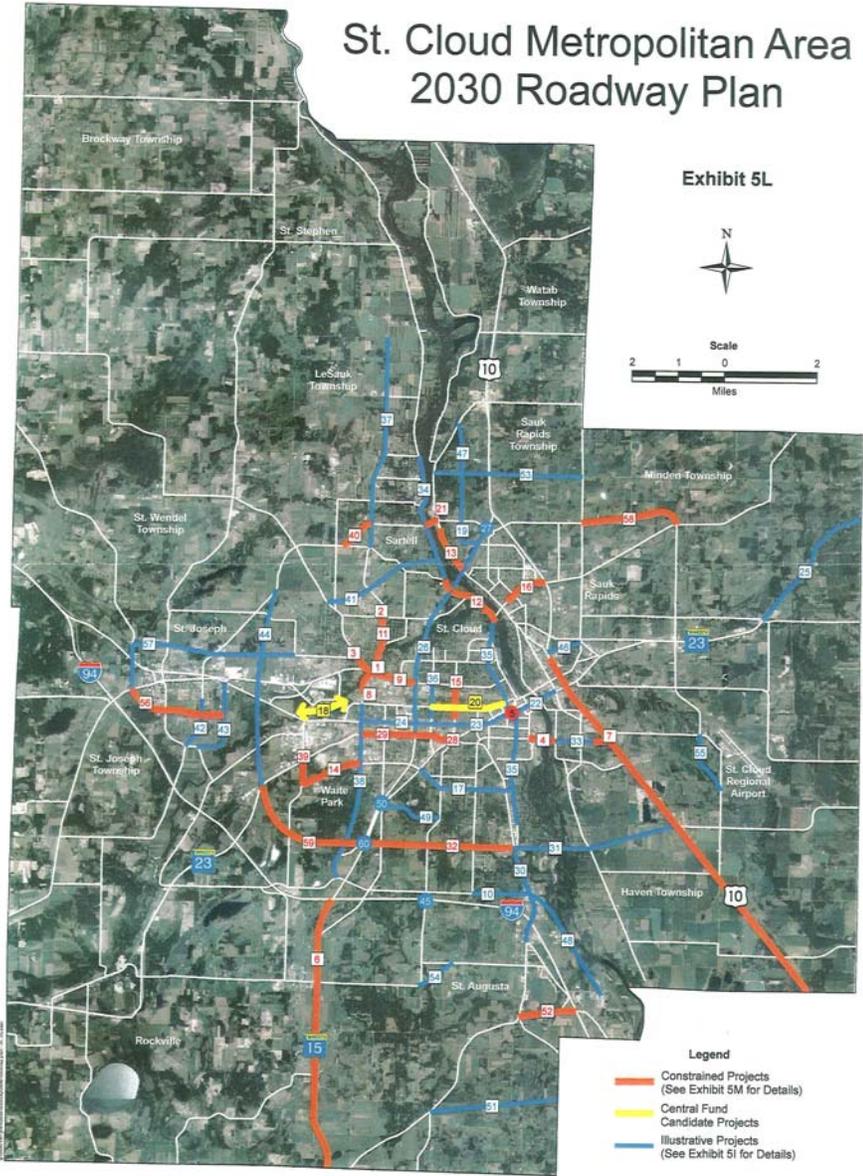
The St. Cloud APO estimates the metropolitan areas will grow by approximately 60,000 people and 24 additional square miles by 2030. Given estimated funding constraints, implementation of their 2030 plan will still result in an additional 118 lane-miles of roadways operating over capacity. The APO estimates a \$270 million expansion funding short-fall needed to maintain existing levels of service. Figure 6.16, from the St. Cloud APO's Long-Range Transportation Plan, identifies the metropolitan areas' roadway plan. The plan includes those priority expansion projects that fit within the MPO's current funding constraints. The plan also lists candidate projects and illustrative projects, which would address identified needs should additional funding become available above what is currently projected.

As previously mentioned, the St. Cloud APO is currently undertaking over a dozen roadway studies. Many of these studies provide the next step in the process toward implementation. Stearns County is partnering on all studies that fall within its boundaries.

Many of these proposed roadway alignments are in danger due to the significant growth occurring in the St. Cloud Metro Area. It is a priority of the St. Cloud APO to work closely with its local government partners and MnDOT to take a proactive approach in protecting these critical transportation corridors.

**It should be noted that the St. Cloud APO is currently in the process of updating its 2030 Transportation Plan to a 2035 Transportation Plan. Therefore, much of the information from the 2030 Transportation plan will soon be outdated. However, at this time, this is the most current information available.**

Figure 6.16: St. Cloud Metropolitan Area 2030 Roadway Plan (APO)



# Stearns County Comprehensive Plan

## I-94 Interregional Corridor Management Plan

In 2002, the Minnesota Department of Transportation completed the I-94 Interregional Corridor Management Plan. The purpose of this study was to develop a generalized land use and transportation plan for the I-94 IRC. The I-94 IRC extends approximately 60 miles from the I-94/494 interchange in Maple Grove to the township of Collegeville. This study provides direction regarding land development and access management to MnDOT District 3, the MnDOT Metro Division and the three counties, ten cities, and 10 townships through which the I-94 Corridor extends.

The I-94 IRC Study area is classified as a High Priority Interregional Corridor and therefore has a performance target of at least 60 mph. It is important to recognize that the speed target represents the average speed of the study area from end to end and does not imply that each segment in itself can achieve the 60-mph target.

The list of recommended roadway improvements that would impact Stearns County includes:

- A new full-access interchange near CR 136.
- A new full-access interchange south of CSAH 75 (committed project – this project is now complete as the Opportunity Drive interchange.
- New 0.6 mile 2-lane arterial roadway connecting CR 121 to Indigo Rd.
- New 3.1 mile 2-lane collector roadway extension of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street South between TH 23 and TH 15.
- New 2.2 mile 2-lane collector roadway extension of 40<sup>th</sup> Street South between CSAH 75 and CR 136.
- New 1.3 mile 4-lane collector roadway extension of CSAH 75 between CR 44 and committed full interchange at Opportunity Drive.
- New/improved 3.3 mile connection from 2-lane collector to 4-lane collector roadway extension of Heatherwood Road between I-94 interchange at CSAH 75 to I-94 interchange at Opportunity Drive.
- New 2.2 mile extension/connection 2-lane collector of CR 44 to Opportunity Drive southwest of I-94.
- Improve capacity along 21.6 miles of CSAH 75 from 2-lane collector to 4-lane collector between I-94 interchange at Opportunity Drive to Monticello.

## Transportation Plan

- Improve capacity on CR 143 (208<sup>th</sup> Street) by expanding from 2-lane collector to 4-lane collector for 1.7 miles between 27<sup>th</sup> Ave E. and 208<sup>th</sup> Street E.
- New 1.1 mile improved 4-lane collector connection/extension between 208<sup>th</sup> Street E to CR7 NW in Wright County south of Clearwater.

It is important to note that the IRC Study did not identify funding sources for these improvement projects, with the exception of the committed projects noted above. To date, the interchange at Opportunity Drive (St. Cloud and St. Augusta) has been completed.

# Stearns County Comprehensive Plan

**Table 6.6. Summary of Implementation Actions**

<b>Phasing Priority</b>	<b>Implementation Actions</b>	<b>Lead and Coordinating Agencies</b>
<b>On-going – annual</b>	<b>County Road System Improvements.</b> Prioritize improvements to the County road system based on projected available funds, pavement life and functional classifications, taking into account the goals and policies of the Land Use and Economic Development plans.	<b>Public Works</b> Environmental Services MnDOT APO Region 7W City and township officials and staff
<b>On-going</b>	<b>Access Management Improvements.</b> Work with cities to alleviate access problems along county roads within cities, through measures such as consolidation of access points, creation of frontage or service roads, joint site plan reviews, and coordination of city land use plans with county access management goals.	<b>Public Works</b> City officials and staff Environmental Services
<b>Medium-term</b>	<b>Intersection Improvements.</b> Work with cities and MnDOT to consider the feasibility of modern roundabouts as alternatives to signalized or signed intersections.	<b>Public Works</b> MnDOT APO Region 7W City and township officials and staff
<b>On-going</b>	<b>Weight Restriction Upgrades.</b> Work to upgrade county roads affected by weight restrictions to unrestricted status (9-ton or higher) to serve the needs of agricultural operations and agriculture-related industries. In general, roads classified as collectors and higher should receive priority for upgrades.	<b>Public Works</b> City and township officials and staff
<b>On-going</b>	<b>Transit Improvements.</b> Support and encourage coordinated planning by regional transit agencies and non-profit/governmental social service agencies to enhance service to cities outside the St. Cloud urban area.	<b>Public Works</b> APO MnDOT City and township officials and staff Social service agencies

# Transportation Plan

Phasing Priority	Implementation Actions	Lead and Coordinating Agencies
<p><b>On-going</b></p>	<p><b>Bicycle, Pedestrian and Recreational Improvements.</b> Support the creation and expansion of regional and local non-motorized trails that serve not only recreational and tourism but also daily transportation needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail connections</li> <li>• Shoulders accommodating bicycles</li> <li>• Canoe access points at County road bridges</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Works</b>            Park Department            APO Trails Advisory Committee</p>
<p><b>On-going</b></p>	<p><b>Corridor Protection.</b> Where future roadway corridors have been identified by State, County or city agencies for improvements, Stearns County will not approve subdivisions adjacent to those corridors unless it can be demonstrated that the corridor will remain adequately protected and that access management guidelines can be met.</p>	<p><b>Public Works</b>  <b>Environmental Services</b>            City and township officials and staff            MnDOT</p>