



# US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project



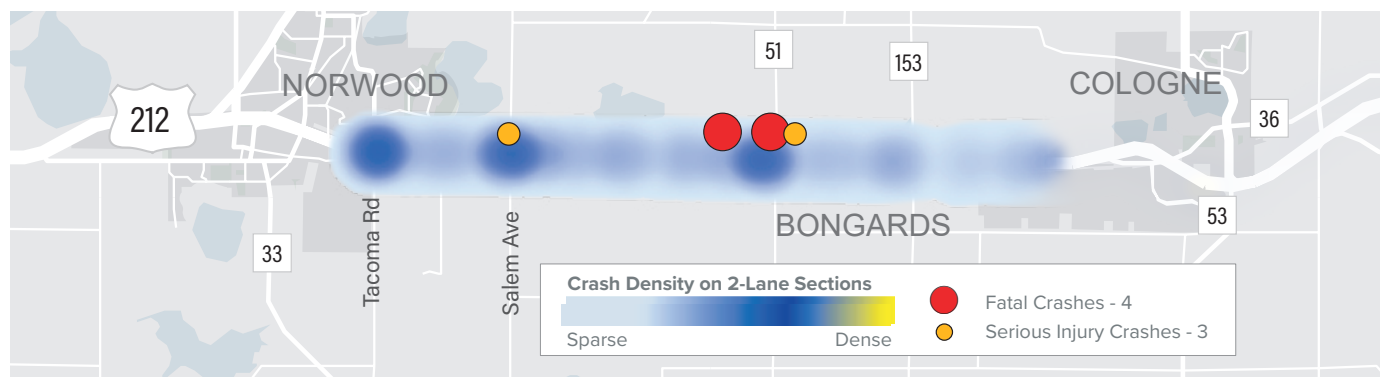
**GOALS:** Address critical mobility and safety issues and eliminate a five mile freight bottleneck between the cities of Cologne and Norwood Young America. Ensure travel time reliability for all users, enhance economic development and access to employment, and improve the quality of the environment.

## US HIGHWAY 212 IN CARVER COUNTY

- **One remaining 5-mile, 2-lane bottleneck** between Cologne and Norwood Young America.
- **Serves 22,000 square miles** of rural MN and SD – Primary connector for 65 major freight generators Serving travelers from 74 of 87 counties
- **Originally constructed** in 1929
- **Carries more than 1,300 trucks daily**
- **Four fatal and three serious injury crashes.**
- **Only high priority interregional corridor in the metro area that still has two-lane segments.**
- **History of federal funding requests:**  
FASTLANE 2017  
INFRA 2017, 2019, 2020  
BUILD 2018, 2019, 2020  
TIGER 2010 (Planning)

## CRASHES

Within the project area, there have been **FOUR** reported traffic fatalities and **three** severe crashes involving life-threatening injuries (2009-2019).



# PROJECT CHALLENGES

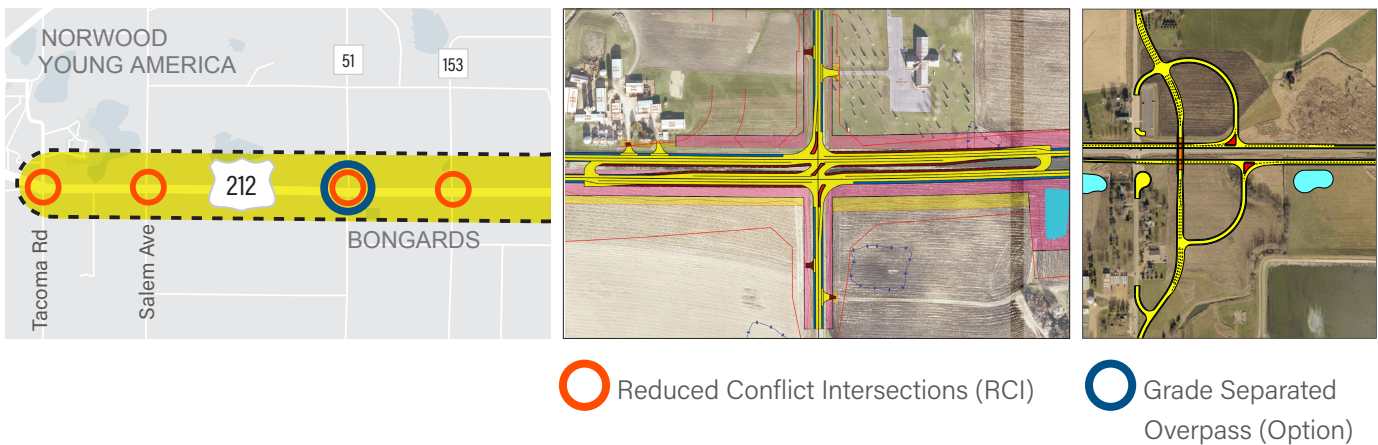
- 1** **ELIMINATE**  
the freight  
bottleneck
- 2** **IMPROVE**  
roadway  
safety
- 3** **EXPAND**  
access to  
employment
- 4** **Ensure**  
state of  
good repair

The project addresses multiple transportation challenges including mobility and safety and reducing gaps in the transportation system to enhance connections between the greater western Minnesota region, South Dakota, and the Twin Cities.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Freight Bottleneck</b> 17% increase in operational costs Negatively affects 65 freight generators</p>	<p><b>The project will address critical capacity issues</b> by creating a continuous, four-lane expressway from Glencoe to the Twin Cities.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fatalities</b> 4 fatalities in past 10 years</p>	<p><b>The project will reduce fatal and injury crashes</b> by eliminating 2-lane rural highway gaps and providing safe access.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Employment Barriers</b> 72% of residents travel outside Carver County for work</p>	<p><b>The project will expand highway capacity</b> to strengthen US 212 as a major connection, linking rural communities to the Twin Cities economic hub.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aging Infrastructure</b> Roadway has not been expanded or reconstructed since it was originally built in 1929</p>	<p><b>The project will replace aging infrastructure</b> that has not been expanded or reconstructed since it was originally built in 1929.</p>

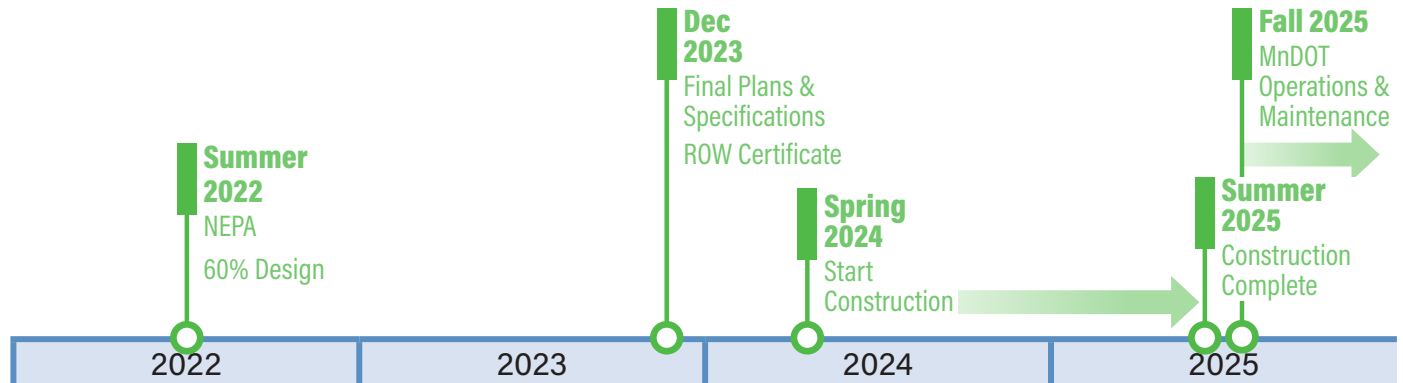
# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

The Project will update the obsolete two-lane roadway to a four-lane expressway. It will address critical safety issues by reconstructing key intersections as Reduced Conflict Intersections (RCIs). Other improvements include the addition of full width shoulders and turn lanes. If funding is available the CR 51 intersection will be replaced with a grade-separated interchange.



**Completed RCIs in the corridor have resulted in**  
50% reduction in injury crashes. 100% reduction in fatal and serious injury right-angle crashes

# PROJECT SCHEDULE



# PROJECT COSTS/FUNDING

<b>Costs:</b>	Design, NEPA	\$2,900,000
	Right of Way	\$3,000,000
	Construction, Administration	\$53,500,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$59,400,000</b>
<b>Funding Commitments</b>	County (Local Option Sales Tax)	\$17,000,000
	Federal (Met Council STPBG)	\$3,500,000
	State (MnDOT-TH Bonds & Construction Admin.)	\$6,400,000
	<b>Funding Gap</b>	<b>\$32,500,000</b>
<b>Potential Gap</b>	<b>Priority Project Request</b>	<b>\$25,000,000</b>
<b>Funding Sources</b>	MN Highway Freight Program (Federal from MnDOT)	\$7,500,000

Assumes Interchange at CR 51

# NEXT STEPS

- County and MnDOT moves ahead with project development and ROW mapping in 2021.
- County applies for upcoming grants: 2021 BUILD, 2021 INFRA, State legislative request.



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### For more information:

[Carver County US 212 project](#)

**#Make212Safe**

