

# Highway **169** Mobility Study

*Evaluating the potential for Bus Rapid Transit and MnPASS Express Lanes in the southwest Metro,  
Investigating options for improved bus service between the Twin Cities and Mankato*

## **U.S. Highway 169 Corridor Coalition March 10, 2016**



# PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

# Study Purpose

- Collaborative effort between MnDOT, Scott County and Metropolitan Council
- Funding partners also include Shakopee, Prior Lake and Highway 169 Corridor Coalition
- Identify and evaluate cost-effective options for improving transit and reducing congestion on Highway 169

# Study Components

Task 1: evaluating highway bus rapid transit (BRT) and MnPASS express lane options in Twin Cities

- Also includes identifying spot mobility improvements

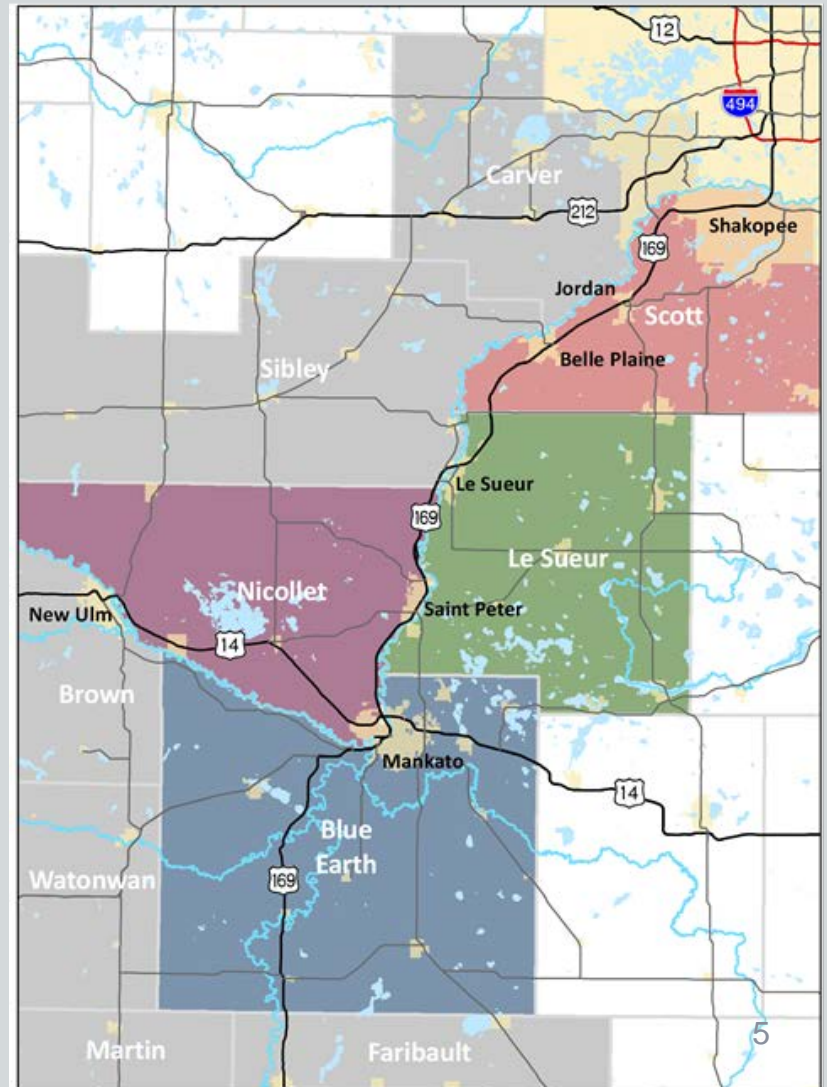
## Task 1 Study Area



# Study Tasks

Task 2: evaluating the need for intercity bus along Highway 169 between Mankato and Twin Cities

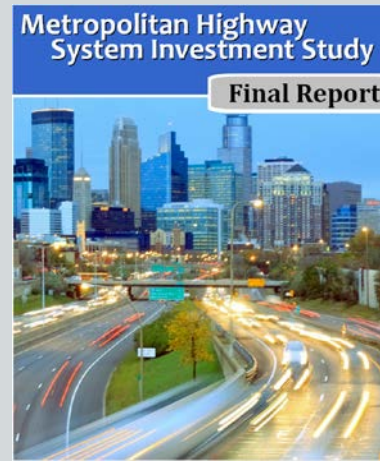
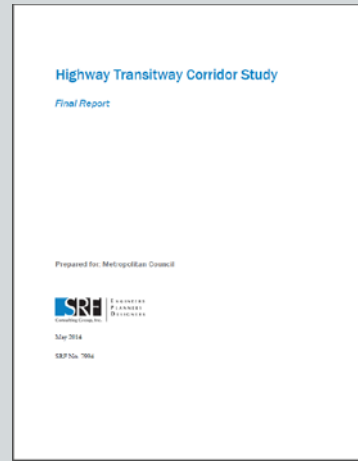
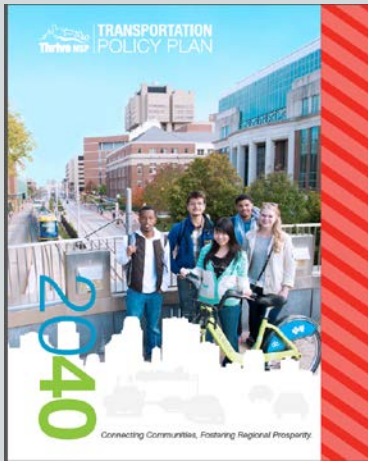
## Task 2 Study Area



# Background

Several studies were completed that led to this Highway 169 Mobility Study, including:

- Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study, 2010
- MnPASS System Study Phase 2, 2010
- Highway Transitway Corridor Study, 2014
- 2040 Transportation Policy Plan, 2015



# DECISION-MAKING DURING THE STUDY

# Study Decision-Makers

- Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - Considers project information and provide input on the study process, issues, and recommendations; communicate study progress to respective elected body
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
  - Provides technical input on the study process, issues, and recommendations
- Project Management Team (PMT)
  - Manages the consultant team and oversees the day-to-day work



# STUDY PROGRESS

# Current Status – Task 1

- Initial technical tasks are complete: review of previous studies and existing conditions
- Currently establishing a purpose and need statement for the project
- Community engagement is underway:
  - Survey open until March 31: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/Hwy169](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Hwy169)
    - 2,400 responses received to-date
  - Chamber events
  - Transit station outreach
  - Employers

# Next Steps – Task 1

## **Fall 2015 – Project kick-off**

- Convene the study partners: MnDOT, Metropolitan Council, Scott County, and Hennepin County
- Document background information
- Develop a public involvement plan
- Draft corridor needs and project goals

## **Winter 2016 – Public input on corridor needs and project goals**

- Solicit input on draft project goals at “pop-up” meetings at employers and community events
- Convene the project stakeholders: study partners, corridor cities, transit providers, and tribal government

## **Spring 2016 – Develop BRT and MnPASS alternatives to be studied**

- Develop a range of alternatives that address the various needs in the corridor
- Develop screening criteria based on project goals to evaluate and compare the alternatives

## **Summer 2016 – Public input on initial alternatives**

- Solicit input on the initial alternatives at “pop-up” meetings at employers and community events
- Evaluate the alternatives using public input and screening criteria; advance only the top alternatives for further study

## **Fall 2016 – Conduct technical analysis on alternatives and share results**

- Further define remaining alternatives and complete detailed analysis
- Share technical information at “pop-up” meetings at employers and community events

## **Winter 2017 – Evaluate alternatives and finalize results**

- Share information at “pop-up” meetings at employers and community events

## **Spring 2017 – Develop implementation plan and conclude study**

We are here



# Current Status – Task 2

- Initial technical tasks are complete: review of previous studies and existing conditions
- Currently establishing a purpose and need statement for the project
- Currently estimating demand for intercity bus in the Highway 169 corridor
  - Survey of college students regarding travel patterns and use of existing bus service
  - Received over 1,000 responses in 2 weeks. Over half of survey responses were from Gustavus students. Desire to continue momentum with additional outreach.
  - Survey is open through the end of the week:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/169\\_IntercitySurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/169_IntercitySurvey)

# Next Steps – Task 2

- Design an implementation/service plan eligible for operating funds from the MnDOT Intercity Bus Program
  - Route
  - Stops
  - Schedule
  - Number of trips
  - Fares
  - Cost Estimates
- Connections to rural transit providers will also be considered as part of the plan.

# Study Outcome

Results of the study will be used to determine whether to:

- Advance recommended improvements into environmental/design phase;
- Add specific recommended improvements to already programmed projects; or
- Prepare recommended improvements should additional funding become available

# Questions?

Adele Hall, AICP  
SRF Consulting Group  
[ahall@srfconsulting.com](mailto:ahall@srfconsulting.com)  
651-333-4134