



Congestion Management Safety Plan

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TAC Planning

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Agenda

Topic

- 1 What is the Congestion Management Safety Plan (CMSP)?
- 2 Relevance to Congestion Investments
- 3 Approach and Methodology
- 4 Current Analysis and Next Steps

What is the Congestion Management Safety Plan?

- A unique initiative aimed at identifying Highway investment solutions that can be quickly implemented at lower costs than traditional projects (e.g. adding new lanes or bridges)
- Goals are to address congestion, safety and travel time reliability concerns
- Focus is on MnDOT freeways & highways in 8-county metro

What is the Congestion Management Safety Plan?

- Solutions strive to:
 - Use existing pavement and right-of-way
 - Be implemented in one construction season
 - Take advantage of other upcoming funded projects
 - Be less than one mile in length
 - Fine-tune the system rather than expand it

Project Examples

Congestion Management Safety Plan



I-494

Westbound auxiliary lane between northbound I-35W loop and France Avenue

Solution Concept

Year Built: 2013

Construction Duration: 1 year

Cost: \$4M

I-494 is a principal arterial freeway that makes up half of the beltline surrounding the Twin Cities metro area. I-494 serves a large variety of regional and local trips, and provides access to numerous north-south principal arterials including TH 212, US 169, TH 100, I-35W, TH 77. The section of I-494 between France Avenue and I-35W is routinely one of the most congested segments of freeway in the entire Twin Cities metro. A combination of entering, weaving, and heavy through traffic contributes to both a.m. and p.m. peak hour congestion issues.



CORRIDOR PLANNING TRAVEL TIME

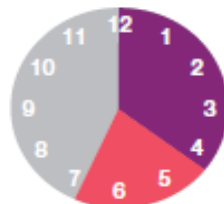
■ Before ■ After

AM Peak



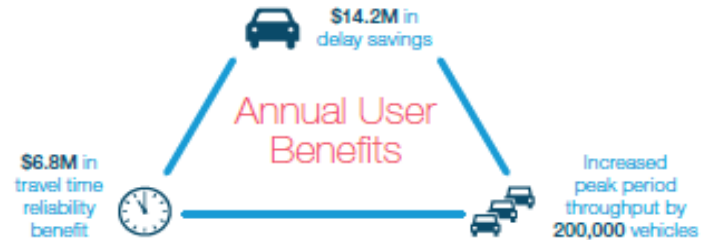
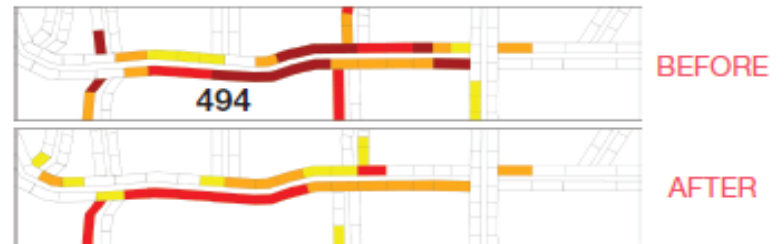
Planning time reduced from 34 mins to 16.5 mins

PM Peak

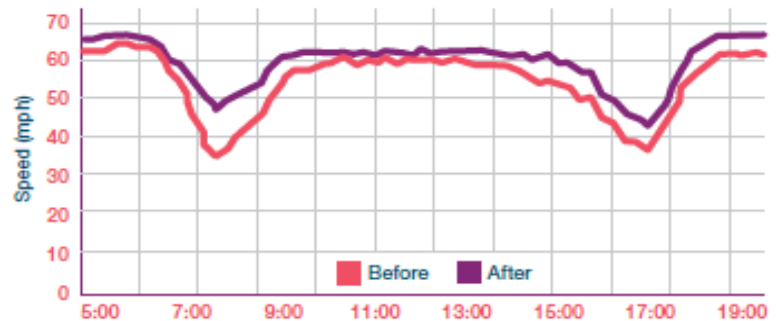


Planning time reduced from 34 mins to 22.5 mins

MNDOT PM CONGESTION REPORTS



AVERAGE CORRIDOR SPEEDS



Each AM commuter saves 23 hours in traveling time over a year
 Each PM commuter saves 15 hours in travel time throughout a year

Project Examples

Congestion Management Safety Plan



TH 100 at I-694

Two-lane northbound on-ramp from TH 100 to eastbound I-694 and re-stripe

Solution Concept

Year Built: 2007

Construction Duration: 1 year

Cost: \$190,000

TH 100 northbound from France Avenue to I-694 eastbound was unchanged in the freeway conversion of TH 100 (TH 55 to France Avenue). This segment's single-lane entrance onto I-694 eastbound had been adequate for the TH 100 expressway. The conversion to a freeway fed more traffic into the entrance and developed a two-mile congested queue on the roadway segment. This was exacerbated by the shifting traffic patterns as a result of the I-35W bridge collapse.

This project provided a two-lane northbound ramp from TH 100 to eastbound I-694. This project was completed as part of the I-35W Bridge Traffic Restoration efforts.

The traffic improvement and low impacts demonstrate that striping and lane-alignment modifications can be effective solutions.



Low cost



Duration of congestion decreased by 1Hour

TYPICAL TRAVEL TIME RANGE

Before After



Both duration and range of travel times decreased, allowing users to be on time more frequently

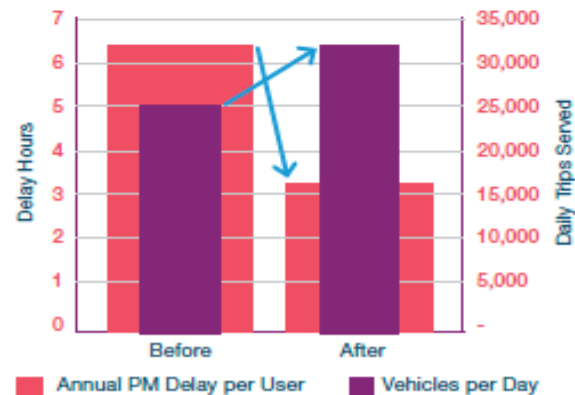
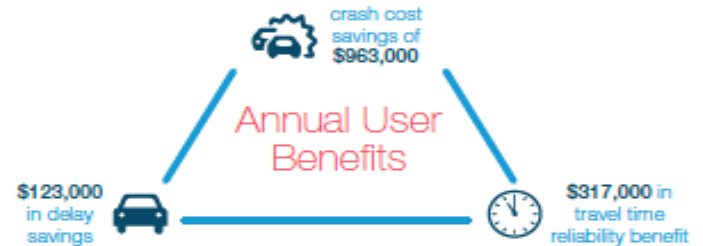
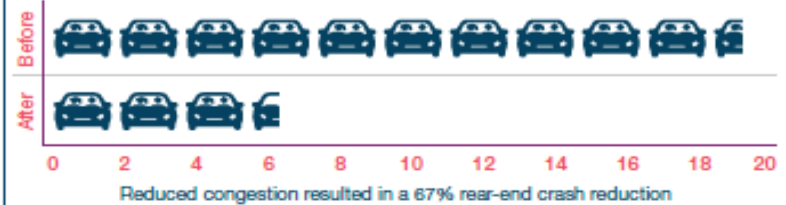


Before



After

REAR-END CRASHES PER YEAR



Each commuter's travel time delay was reduced by 50% during p.m. peak period, resulting in a three hour savings over a year period.

Project Examples

Congestion Management Safety Plan



TH 61 / TH 55 and 10th St.
Eastbound double left-turn lane

Solution Concept

Year Built: Fall 2015

Construction Duration: 1 year

Cost: \$356,378

The intersection of TH 61 and TH 55 is located in the City of Hastings. TH 61 through town was expected to operate poorly when the new TH 61 Bridge was constructed. Buildings and direct access to TH 61 makes it difficult to increase capacity.

This project was an individual project that was built by itself. It was constructed quickly with a very short construction timeline (3 weeks).

Cooperation from the City and adjacent developments allowed for the project to go smoothly.



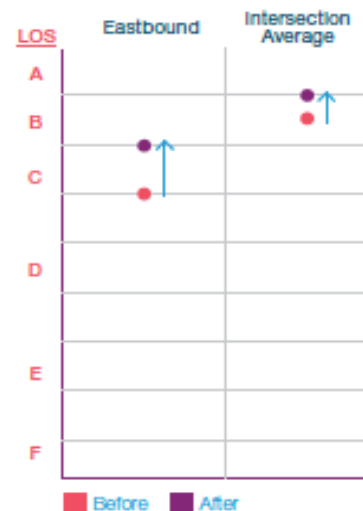
Low cost



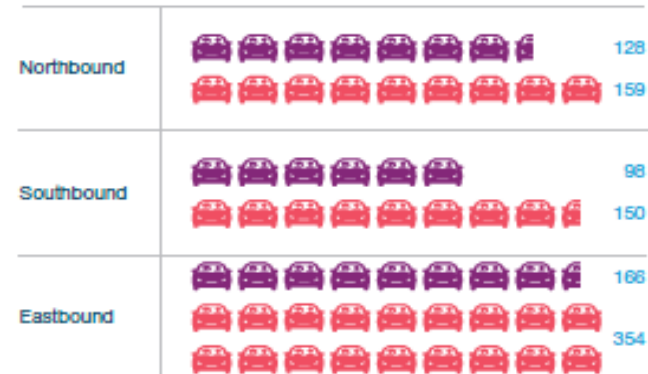
Annual delay savings of \$68,000



PM INTERSECTION LEVEL OF SERVICE



ESTIMATED PM PEAK QUEUE LENGTHS (FEET)



Additional capacity on the eastbound approach also benefits queue lengths and vehicle delay on the other approaches

BEFORE



High number of right-turn movements blocked from taking right-turn on red gaps due to through movement vehicles waiting at red signal

AFTER



Separation of movements increases right-turn capacity

Why Pick this type of approach?

- Realization that building our way out of congestion is not a feasible approach
- Impacts to environment and communities would be severe to catastrophic
- Right-of-way acquisition costs would be prohibitive in some areas
- Revenues to fund the expansion fall significantly short
 - Study estimated a need of \$40B, revenues were \$6B
 - Gas tax would need to increase by \$2.30 per gallon

Relevance to Congestion Investments

- Direction from recent MnDOT and Met Council long range plans realize constraints (environmental, political, funding) and set priorities for investment on our transportation network:
 - Preservation Only
 - Active Traffic Management
 - Congestion Management Safety Plan
 - MnPASS
 - Strategic Capacity
- Congestion Management Safety Plan approach offers a more efficient use of limited resources

Approach and Methodology

- First, traffic volumes, travel times, and crash data was collected for all MnDOT roadways in the Metro area
 - Volume and travel time data came from our loop detectors and 3rd party GPS data for the year 2015
 - Crash data covered a three year period from July 2012 to June 2015
- Underlying causes of congestion or crashes were analyzed
- Analysis of over 600 locations led to the development of the “System Problem Statement”

Approach and Methodology

- 600 + locations assessed for the magnitude of congestion, safety and reliability costs
- Goal was to select around the costliest 10 % of the problem locations (around 60 locations)
- Problem locations that were programmed for improvements within the next 4 years were also excluded

Approach and Methodology

- Several Design workshops were held to identify possible solutions for approximately 60 locations
- Workshop teams included MnDOT area engineers, managers, traffic engineers (freeways, signals), Met Council, and Federal Highway Administration, plus consultant design and construction staff
- Over 80 solutions were recommended for further analysis

Current analysis and Next Steps

- Solutions are being subjected to a secondary screening
- The 80+ solutions are being subjected to benefit costs analyses
 - Solutions should provide benefits by reducing delay and crash costs
 - Costs to build the projects are being estimated
- Return on investment estimated for each solution
- Solutions sorted into “high”, “medium” and “low” tiers based on return on investment



DRAFT

Legend

Solution Ranking

- Top Tier
- Mid Tier
- Bottom Tier

Concurrent Study & CMSP 3 Locations

- ▲ Top Tier
- ▲ Mid Tier
- ▲ Bottom Tier



Current analysis and Next Steps

- “High” tier solutions will be subjected to further analysis
- Preliminary scoping of refined solutions
- Project selection
- Coordinating meetings and public outreach
- Projects from the CMSP study will be included in the Metropolitan Council’s TPP
 - Project List requires coordination between MnDOT and Council
 - Some solutions changing categories based on several factors

Thank you!

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