



Central Ave at County Hwy 10



Pedestrian Bridge at S.L.P. High School



Osborne Rd to 79th Ave NE

University & Central Vision

Hwy 47 and Hwy 65

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Study Area

Study Area: Northeast Mpls to Anoka County Road 10

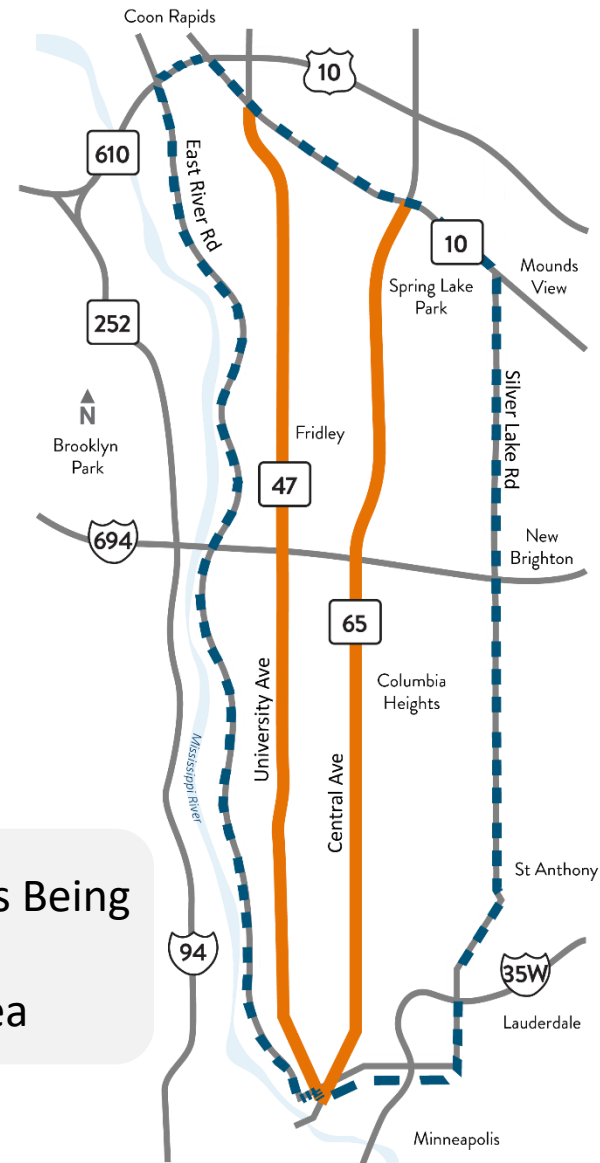
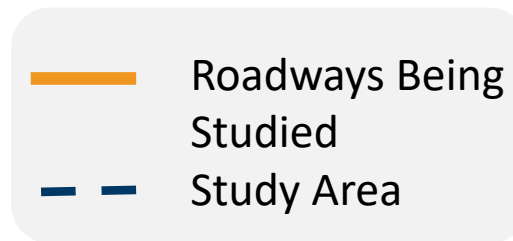
Cities: Blaine, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Hilltop, Minneapolis, Spring Lake Park

Counties: Hennepin and Anoka

Residents: 145,000

Jobs: 60,000

Businesses: 4,000



Study Area



Northtown Mall Transit Center



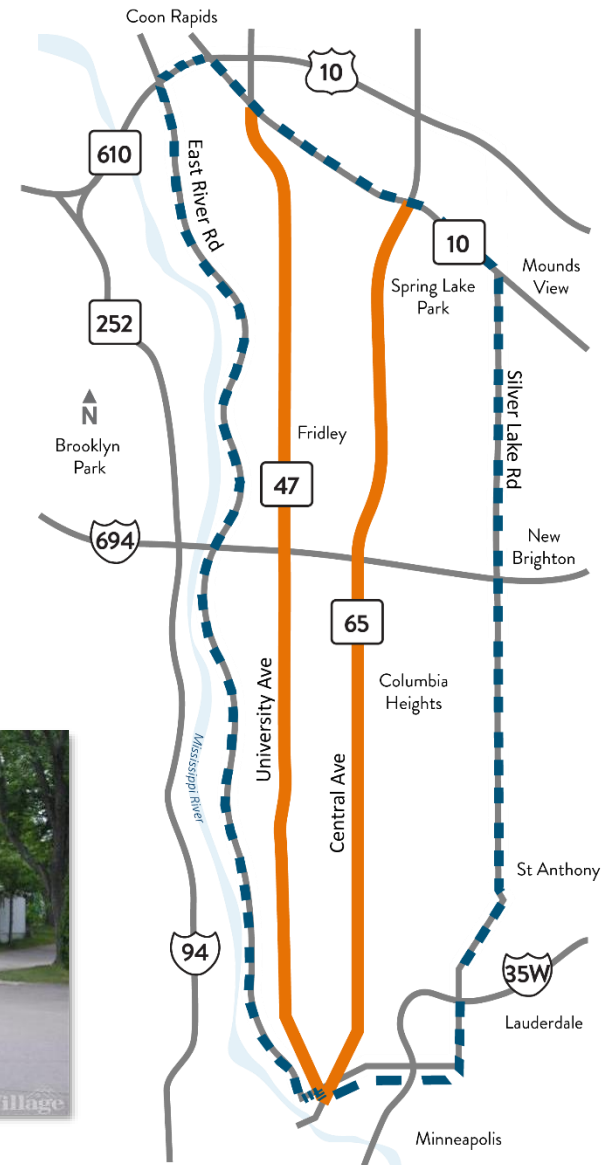
Central Ave at Lowry Ave



Columbia Heights: Central Ave at 49th Ave



City of Hilltop



Spring Lake Park and Study Area



1. Study Team and Partners



**Agency
Partners**



MnDOT:

Area management
Planning
Environmental
Bicycles and Pedestrians
Freight and Intermodal
Traffic Forecasting

Federal Highway Admin.

Metropolitan Council

Blaine, Columbia Heights,
Coon Rapids, Fridley,
Hilltop, Minneapolis,
Spring Lake Park

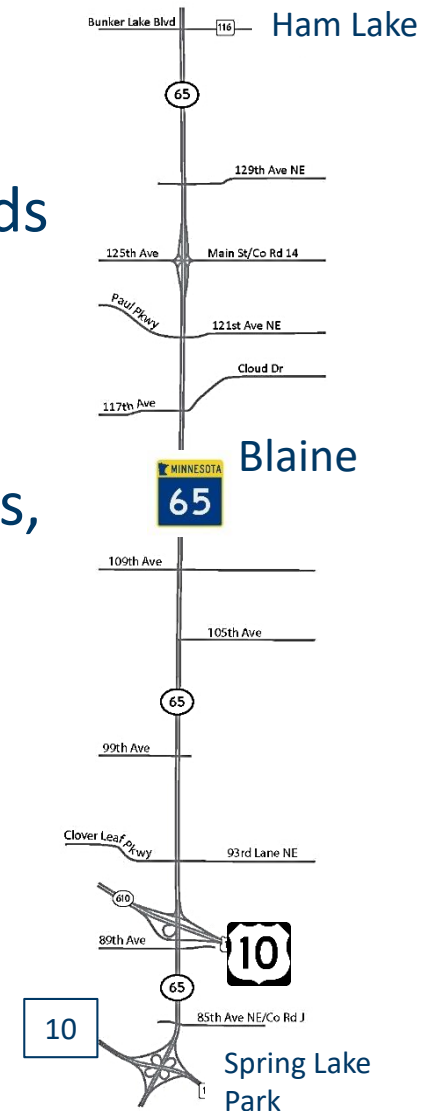
Hennepin and Anoka
Counties

Consulting Team:

Short Elliott
Hendrickson (SEH),
Alta Planning + Design,
CPCS, HFTE, Goff Public
and NewPublica

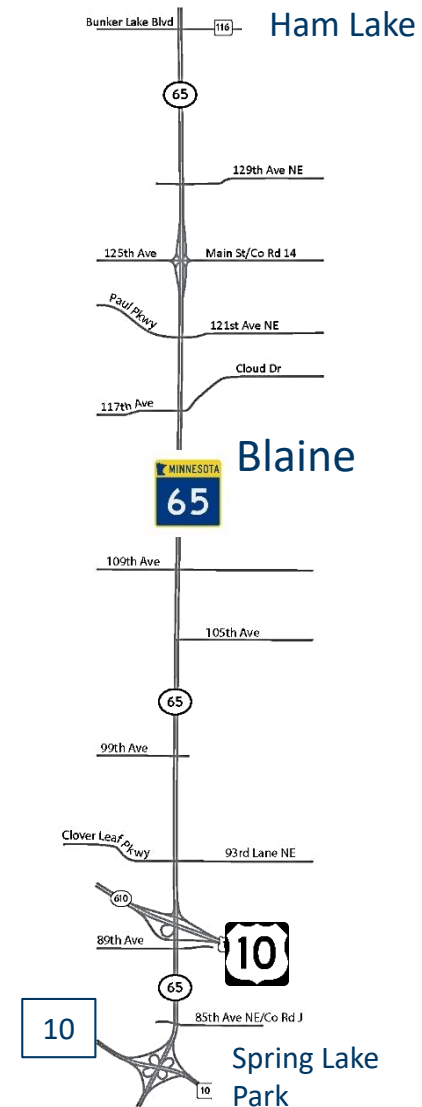
Highway 65 safety and mobility corridor study

- Highway 65 between Bunker Lake Blvd. (Anoka Co. Rd. 116) in Ham Lake and Co. Rd. 10/Mounds View Blvd. in Spring Lake Park.
- Study examining a range of cost-effective roadway alternatives to address capacity, access, mobility and safety issues.
- Last open house on September 29th 2020 to discuss alternatives and evaluation.



Relationship with Highway 65 PEL Study

- Similar study process
- Different study areas
 - Highway 65 PEL Study south limit is Osborne Road
 - Hwy 47/Hwy 65 PEL Study north limit on Highway 65 is County Road 10
 - Coordination between the study teams is ongoing



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Safety



Pedestrian dies after being hit by driver on busy road in Blaine

Pedestrian fatal Avenue was Colu

NORTH METRO

Man on foot is struck and killed while on Central Avenue in Columbia Heights

Star Tribune | SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 — 3:00

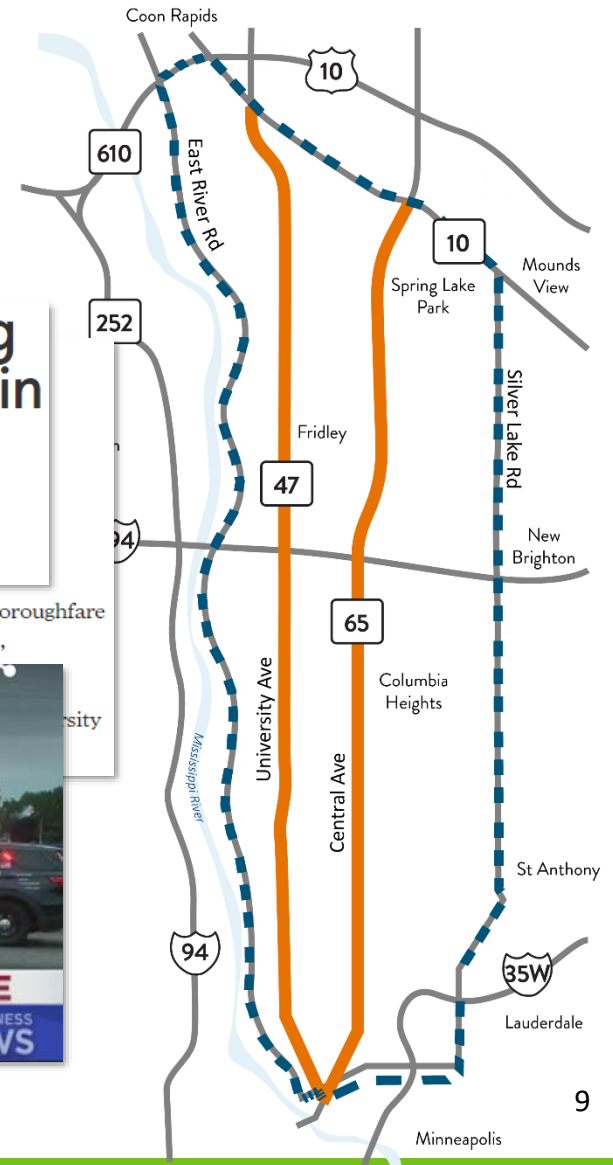
The driver, a 21-year-old man from Columbia Heights, stopped and was cooperating, officials said.

Authorities have identified the pedestrian crossing a highway in Columbia Heights.

Alfred Mulbah, 65, of Columbia Heights, was struck and killed while crossing NE 44th Avenue when he was struck by a Ford Ranger in the intersection. Mulbah was struck by a Ford Ranger in the intersection. Pedestrian signals were "showing red" at the time, said Tierney Peters, a spokeswoman for the city.



- 11/4/2020 -- DRAFT



Crashes 2015-2019

2,473 total crashes in last 5 years

5% involved pedestrians and bicyclists

110 of all crashes were fatal or severe injury

30% involved pedestrians and bicyclists



What is a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study?

- High-level. Holistic. Contextual.
- For large study areas, many stakeholders, complex issues.
- Data-driven.
- Lots of public engagement.
- Federal Highway Administration involved early on.

Spring Lake Park Plans Reviewed

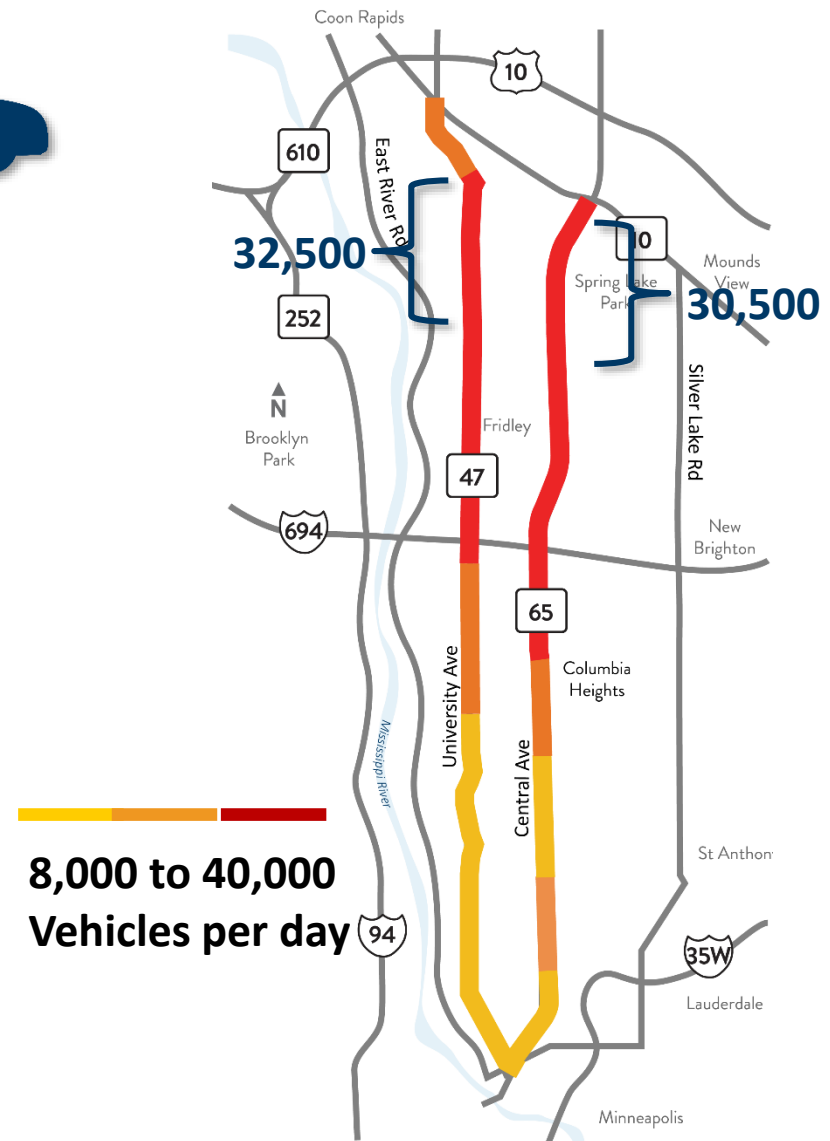
- Spring Lake Park, MN 2040 Comprehensive Plan (2018 & 2020)
- Spring Lake Park CIP (2019-2023)
- CSAH 8 (Osborne Rd. NE) Roadway Modification Study (2016)
- TH 65 Traffic Signal Optimization
- Anoka County 2040 Transportation Plan
- 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)

Traffic Volumes



Cars and light trucks

- Both highways transition from 4-lane undivided in the south to 4-lane divided in the north
- Speeds and daily traffic trips increase from south to north

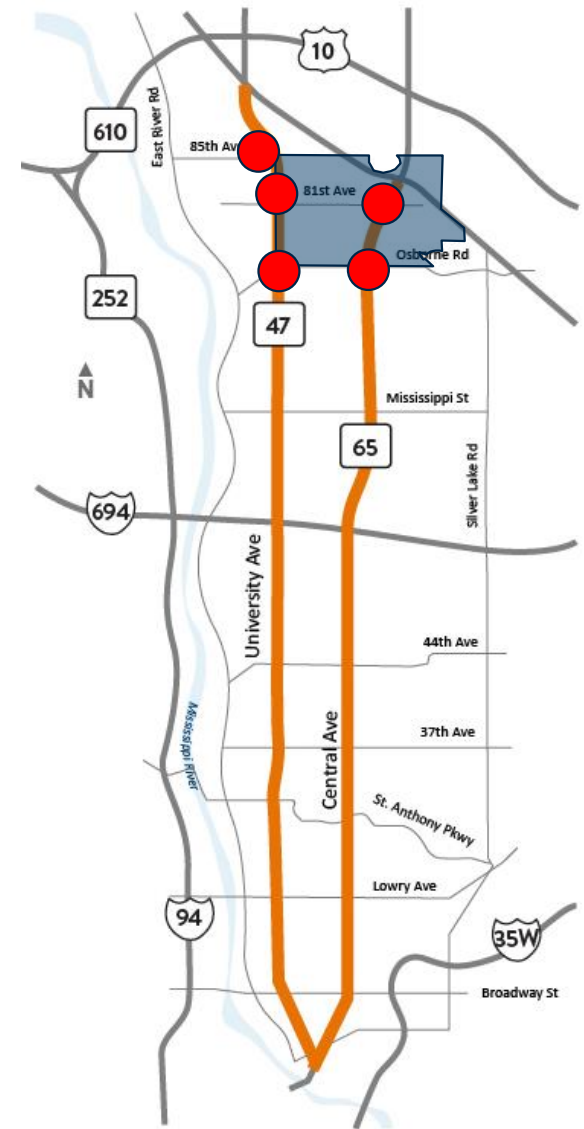


Vehicle Traffic



Sustained High Crash and/or High Injury Intersections in Spring Lake Park (2015-2019)

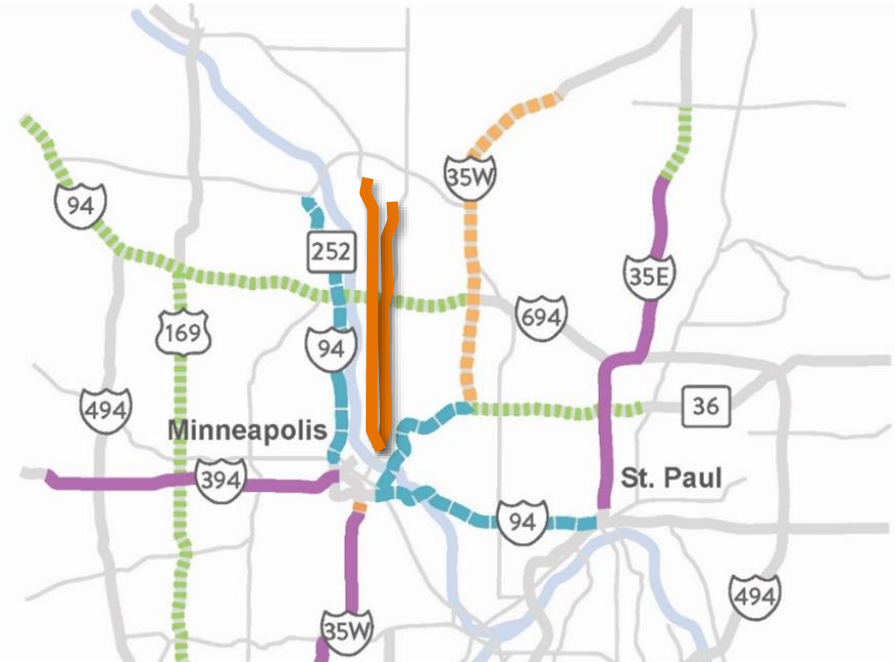
1. University at 85th Ave
2. University at 83rd Ave
3. University at Osborne Rd
4. Central at Osborne Rd
5. Central at 81st Ave



Auto Travel Patterns



- Very few corridor end-to-end car trips
- Most car trips are short, local
- Traffic forecasts show little/no growth on Hwys 47 and 65 in the next 20 years
- Improvements on Hwy 252/I-94 and I-35W will likely influence future traffic on University and Central Aves



Pedestrian Comfort



Walking Along the Corridors (north/south):

- Comfortable in southern areas—sidewalks buffered from traffic, few gaps in sidewalk network
- Uncomfortable in north areas—few buffers from traffic, incomplete sidewalk network (except in Fridley, where there are side paths)

Crossing the Corridors (east/west):

- Comfortable in southern areas: shorter crossing distances, lower traffic speeds and volumes
- Very uncomfortable in northern areas: longer crossings, higher traffic speeds and volumes



More comfort

Grade Separated Crossing at Hwy 65 and 80th Ave



Less comfort

Hwy 47 south of 27th Ave NE

Transit Users



- Top *origins and destinations*: Northtown Mall, Downtown Minneapolis, retail on Hwy 65 in Columbia Heights
- 17% of bus stops are *not connected to the pedestrian network*
- 65% of study area transit riders own or have access to vehicles, but *walk to transit*-frequently



● *Sidewalk connection; shelter*
Hwy 65 and 18th Ave NE



● *No sidewalk connection; no shelter*
Hwy 47 and 81st Ave NE

Transit Users



Bus stop sidewalk connection ●

No bus stop sidewalk connection ●



Bicyclists



Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress analysis:

- “Very stressful” along most of Hwy 47 and Hwy 65
- Many bicycle barriers to desired destinations (especially E. River Road)



 *Lower Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress*
Hwy 65, south of Rice Creek

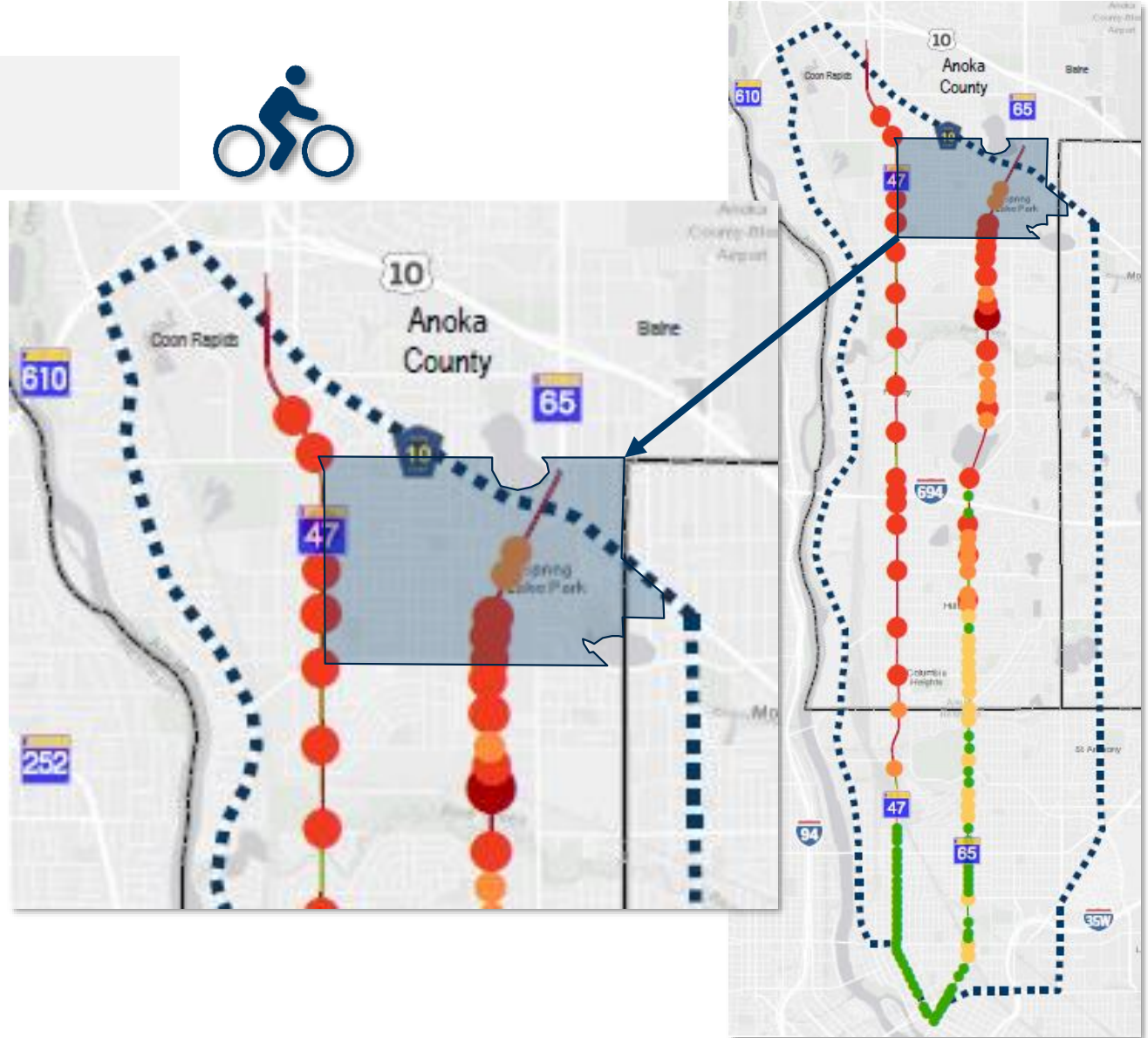


 *Higher Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress*
Hwy 65 and 42nd Ave NE

Bicyclists



-  Most comfortable
-  Comfortable
-  Uncomfortable
-  Most uncomfortable



Large Trucks



2,400 freight businesses

- Target Distribution
- Cummins
- US Post Office
- Quality Park Products
- Cub Foods
- Minco Products Inc.
- Medtronic, RMS Co.
- Shoreham Yards



Target Distribution Center on University Ave.

Primary routes:

- I-694 interchanges with Hwys 47 and 65
- Hwy 280/I-94 via Hennepin and 37th Aves

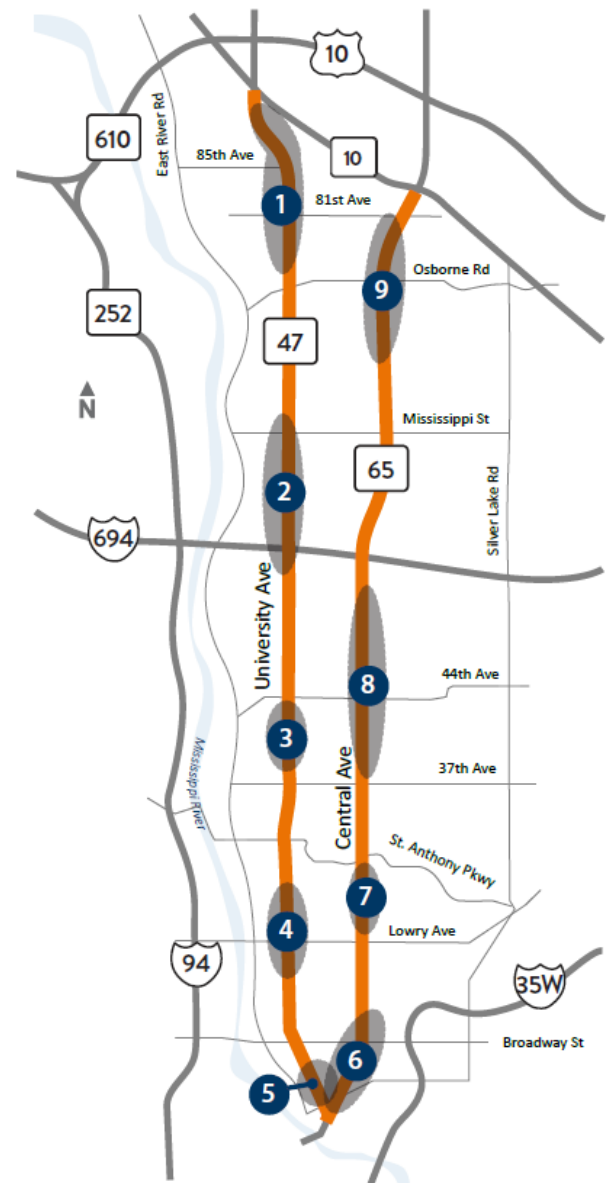
Focus Areas

University Avenue

- 1 Osborne Rd NE to University Ave
- 2 53rd Ave NE to Mississippi St
- 3 37th Ave NE to 42nd Ave NE
- 4 16th Ave NE to 27th Ave NE
- 5 Hwy 65 to 1st Ave NE

Central Avenue

- 6 University Ave NE to Broadway St NE
- 7 24th Ave NW to 29th Ave NE
- 8 37th Ave NE to 51st Ave NE
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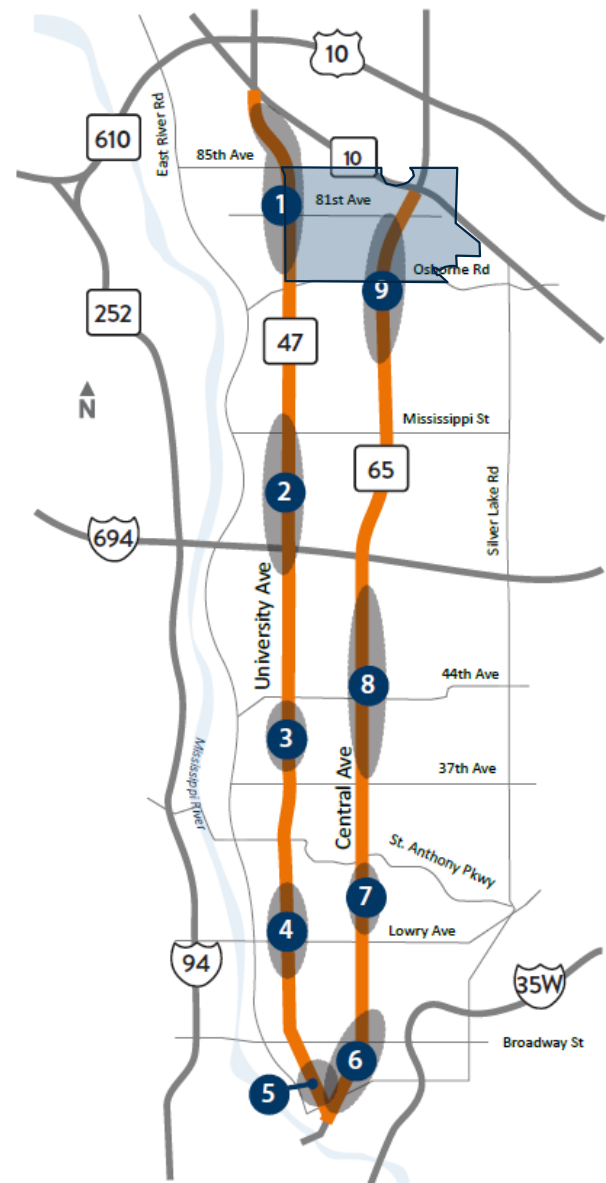
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Share Your Vision: www.UniversityCentralVision.com

✓ Learn More

Check out the project website. Take a video tour.
See what looks “comfortable” to you!

☐ Share your opinions

Take the online survey on the website.

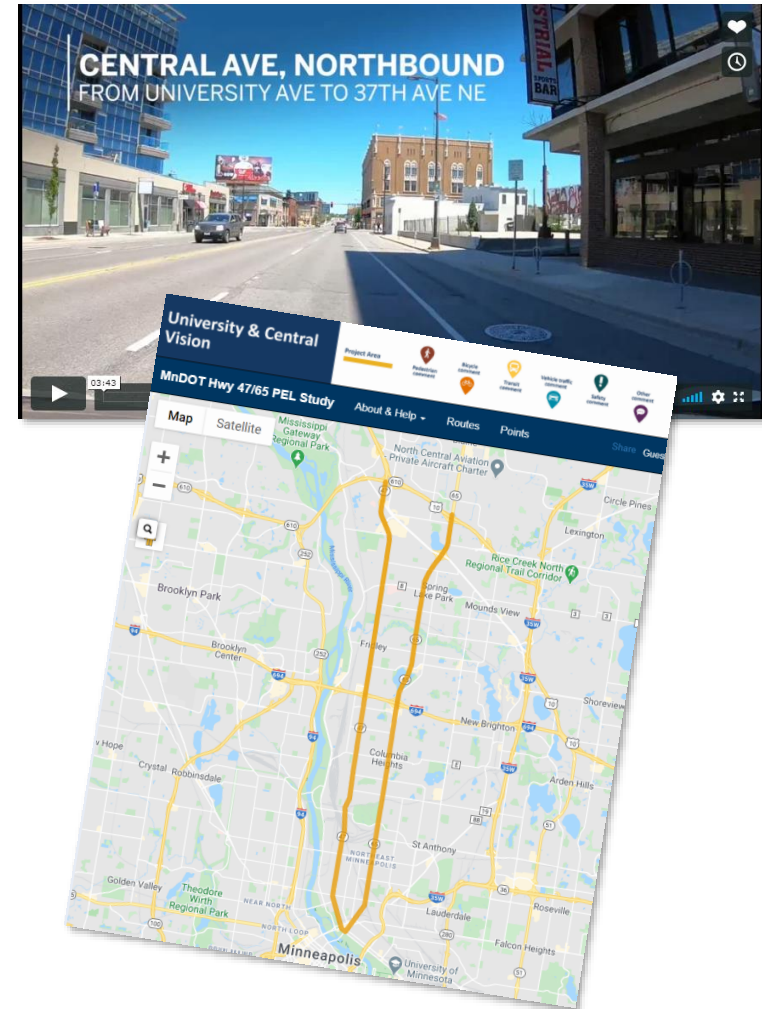
☐ WikiMap It

Drop a pin on our interactive map to show us exactly where there’s a problem.

☐ Keep in Touch!

Sign up for email updates to be notified when new information is released.

☐ Visit University and Central Ave Development Phase 2



Next Steps



Nov 25: Initial public comment wraps up

Early 2021: “Purpose and Need”
document ready for public review

Mid-2021: Join us to develop alternatives

Fall 2021: Help us select a corridor vision



Thank you!



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