



The City of Rochester and Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) District 6 have completed the Northern Rochester Transportation Study (NRTS). The ultimate goal of this effort was to develop a unified transportation plan for northwest Rochester that can be implemented over time to address long-range traffic demands. The NRTS was completed to help local officials guide future land use and local infrastructure improvements, preserve right of way, and secure funding for the future phased implementation of the recommended improvements to City, County, and State roads in the study area.

This newsletter has been prepared to recap study progress to date, inform you of study outcomes, and identify next steps based on the NRTS findings.

### RECAP OF STUDY PROGRESS

Representatives from the City, Mn/DOT, and Olmsted County, along with a team of project consultant staff, spent the initial year of this study reviewing existing and projected future conditions in the study area related to traffic, safety, social, economic, and environmental issues. The results of this effort identified key study area issues, including congestion, safety, access spacing, and local and regional mobility. Based on these identified issues and input from regulatory agencies and the public, a final set of recommended improvements has been developed. The recommended improvements include the following elements:

1. Construction of a new folded diamond interchange at Highway 52 and 65th Street NW including auxiliary lanes on Highway 52 between 55th and 65th Streets
2. Easterly relocation of the 55th Street East Frontage Road (Bandel Road)
3. Upgrade 55th Street NW to six-lanes between Members Parkway and the East Frontage Road (Bandel Road)
4. Reconstruction of the interchange at Highway 52 and 55th Street NW as a single point urban interchange
5. Additional local roadway capacity improvements (e.g., additional lanes and/or intersection turn lanes)

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

#### PAST EVENTS

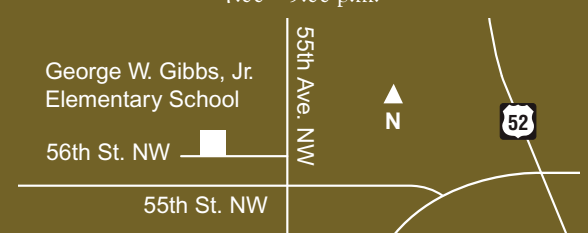
An informational open house was held on April 8, 2010 at the George W. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School, and interested individuals were able to ask questions and provide input about the recommended alternative. Many attendees voiced disapproval of the recommended west frontage road alignment along Clearwater Road due to its social impacts to the surrounding neighborhood. Based on public input, additional analysis was completed, including examination of the social impacts associated with the west frontage road and analysis of auxiliary lanes on Highway 52 between 55th and 65th Streets as

a project alternative that provides acceptable traffic operations without construction of a west frontage road.

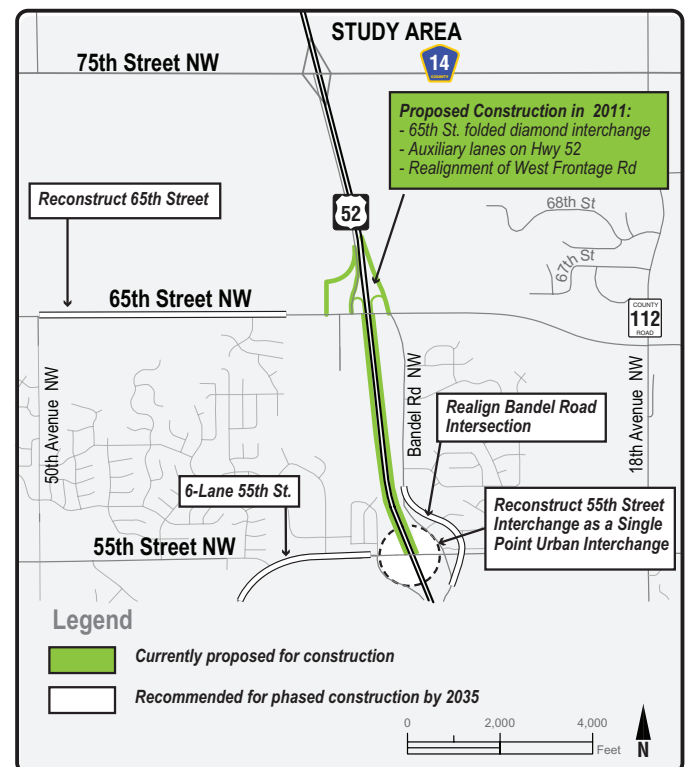
#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Informational Open House** – A final project open house for the NRTS project has been scheduled for **Thursday, March 10, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at George W. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School – 5525 56th Street NW**. The meeting will provide an opportunity to review the recommended improvements and provide input. Project staff will be available to answer questions and listen to concerns. A brief presentation will be given at 7:30 p.m.

**NRTS INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE**  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 George W. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School – 5525 56th Street NW  
 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



#### NRTS YEAR 2035 RECOMMENDATIONS





# NORTHERN ROCHESTER TRANSPORTATION STUDY

NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2011  
WWW.NORTHERNROCHESTERSTUDY.COM

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## OUTCOMES OF NORTHERN ROCHESTER TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- **West Frontage Road between 55th and 65th Streets** – Currently, there are no plans for construction of a west frontage road along either the Clearwater or Chateau alignment within the 2035 timeframe.
- **Highway 52/65th Street Interchange** – Based on the recommendations of NRTS, a folded diamond interchange at the intersection of 65th Street NW and Highway 52 is proposed for construction to begin in 2011. The project also includes auxiliary lanes on Highway 52 between 55th Street NW and 65th Street NW and realignment of the west frontage road in the northwest quadrant of the interchange area (see map on the back of this newsletter). The project is locally funded, and engineering design and environmental studies are currently underway.

### PROJECT RESOURCES

The following documents have been developed based on the findings of the NRTS:

- **Technical Memorandum 5** – This memorandum documents the concept development and evaluation process of NRTS, and identifies recommended improvements to address key issues within the study area's transportation system as previously described. Technical Memorandum 5 is available on the project website [[www.NorthernRochesterStudy.com](http://www.NorthernRochesterStudy.com)]
- **Phased Improvement Memorandum** – Other improvements recommended in the NRTS will be phased over the next 25 years based on demonstrated need and available funding. This memorandum recommends project phasing and interim design alternatives and is available on the project website. [[www.NorthernRochesterStudy.com](http://www.NorthernRochesterStudy.com)]

### NEXT STEPS

- **Highway 52/65th Street Interchange Project** – An environmental document and public hearing for this project will occur in mid-2011.
- **Phase I – 55th Street Improvement Project** – The City has secured funding for improvements along 55th Street within the Highway 52/55th Street interchange area in the year 2012. It is anticipated that the first phase of the 55th Street improvements will include the widening of the 55th Street Bridge, intersection improvements at the ramp terminals, and traffic signal timing revisions.
- **Subsequent Projects** – The following improvement projects will be phased over the next 25 years based on future needs and funding availability:
  - **Phase II – 55th Street Improvement Project:** Including the easterly relocation of the East Frontage Road/Bandel Road intersection.
  - **Phase III – 55th Street Improvement Project:** Reconfiguration of the Highway 52/55th Street interchange.
  - **Phase IV – 55th Street Improvement Project:** Upgrade 55th Street to a six-lane divided roadway between the relocated East Frontage Road/Bandel Road intersection and Member's Parkway.
  - **65th Street west of Highway 52:** Reconstruct 65th Street between 50th Avenue and the west frontage road.

### QUESTIONS?

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