

Regional Mississippi Overpass Multiuse Trail Bridge



Highway 10/169 Corridor, City of Ramsey, Anoka County



Project Total: \$7,500,000

Local Investments:

Existing skyway from 800 stall parking ramp to rail stop.

- \$100K TOD Grant for Preliminary Design
- MRT connection with south bridge touchdown point at the Mississippi River Regional Trail land donated by private developer—valued > \$100,000
- \$490k National Park Service investment for Final Plans and Spec for the skyway extension—the bridge plans are 90% complete
- Level 2 Layout approval by MnDOT, Bridge #02053
- Removal of overhead power near south touchdown point
- Realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail to connect the Ramsey Northstar Station with CSAH 116 and utilize the future Mississippi Skyway to cross TH 10/169

Project Purpose

The Regional Mississippi Overpass Multiuse Trail Bridge will provide a *vital, non-motorized, grade-separated connection* across Highway 10/169 to the Center of Ramsey (COR), a 400-acre Transit Oriented Development area within the City of Ramsey. Specifically connecting the Northstar Transit Station, mixed use amenities, thousands of residents, and the Mississippi River Regional Trail. The 4-lane divided principal arterial is a significant non-motorized barrier, connecting Minneapolis-St. Paul to St. Cloud, and carrying up to 55,000 vehicles per day (5% heavy truck) through the City of Ramsey.

Immediate Need

Today, a continuous pedestrian system does not exist along Highway 10/169 resulting in pedestrians walking and biking along the roadway shoulders and crossing the 4-lane divided highway at unmarked locations. Recent years this highway has seen crashes involving a pedestrian or bicyclist. Two of these crashes resulted in a pedestrian fatality.



Biker on shoulder during winter months

Continued development of the Ramsey COR and the Regional Park on the opposite side of the highway, has the city, county, and MnDOT concerned for the significant increase in non-motorized trips across Highway 10/169 that it will draw. In addition, the city has recently initiated the Ramsey Highway 10 Corridor Improvement Project which will result in a singular vision to reduce a significant number of private and local access points along the highway. While beneficial to motorized safety and mobility, it further degrades the already unsafe non-motorized environment along Highway 10/169 by allowing for increased motorized speeds and capacity. The Highway 10 project recognizes the Mississippi Skyway as an integral project component to address non-motorized deficiencies and safety issues.

In addition to the existing improvements that generate this need. Ramsey is beginning to review plans for a commercial development on the land this pedestrian bridge touches down on the south side of Highway 10/169. At 40 plus acres, this development would hold a youth athletic complex drawing several thousand visitors per year along with many other commercial/retail businesses. Anticipated start of this development is fall 2024.

The bridge connection between two eastwest continuous regional trails will remove the need for pedestrians and bicyclists to utilize the highway shoulders or cross the 4-lane divided highway to reach the several regional destinations in the project area.

Project Benefits

- Eliminates physical non-motorized barrier
- ADA compliant
- Safely connects regional destinations
- Connects a RBTN Tier 1 and Tier 2 corridor
- Integrates and extends existing and planned regional infrastructure
- Promotes non-motorized transportation in an area that provides jobs and services
- Supports Northstar Transit connections



Proposed Skyway Overpass connecting to Mississippi West Regional Park