Problem Statement

County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 1 is a minor arterial roadway providing an important east/west regional function between Interstate 35 in Rice County and State Highway 52 in Goodhue County. In addition to this regional function, CSAH 1 also serves a local role by providing connections between the steadily growing residential and commercial areas of Dundas, Northfield and Bridgewater Township between State Highway 3 and State Highway 246.

Currently, the pavement on CSAH 1 is in poor condition and is in need of rehabilitation. This 1.6 mile corridor has 20 public and private access points. Many of these accesses do not meet current design standards nor meet recommended access spacing guidelines. While the overall CSAH 1 corridor does not have a significant crash issue, there are a few locations experiencing more crashes than expected (when compared to similar facilities). Crash data for the Highland Parkway/Farrel Avenue intersection with CSAH 1 was reviewed and showed there is not a crash issue at this location; however, concerns about safety at this intersection have been expressed. There are currently no pedestrian/bicycle facilities along CSAH 1 yet residential development and pedestrian destinations (i.e., schools, YMCA, retail land uses) are located within walking/biking distance of the corridor. Traffic volumes on CSAH 1 are approximately 4,000 vehicles per day and are anticipated to almost double within the next 10 years, nearing the roadway's capacity threshold.

As the areas surrounding CSAH 1 continue to urbanize, the demands for additional local access and pedestrian/bicycle facilities and crossings have the potential to conflict with the safe and efficient movement of traffic on CSAH 1 in its current configuration. Considering Rice County's overall funding levels and limited available right-of-way along CSAH 1, it will be difficult to address more than basic improvements to the corridor without local and/or state agency partnerships and funding participation.