

# Fix It, 4/169

Highway 169 is a major route for local and statewide travel and accommodates commuter, tourist and freight traffic. In Zimmerman, a traffic signal at County Road 4 and unrestricted highway access cause frequent traffic congestion, causing loss of freight revenue, user frustration and an increase in the number of crashes.



**Over the next 20 years, traffic volume is expected to increase by 40%, which will amplify existing issues.**

Traffic counts completed in 2018 show 27,000 cars per day (AADT) use Highway 169 south of the County Road 4 intersection and 21,200 north of the intersection. The City of Zimmerman and Sherburne County need to be prepared to plan and construct a solution that addresses the mobility and safety of its residents, businesses and visitors.

\$4 million is requested to re-evaluate MnDOT interchange concepts from 10 years ago, update environmental documents, and develop final plans and specifications.

## Existing Corridor Issues



**TRAFFIC DELAYS:** Mile-long backups are common during peak travel times. Drivers often wait through multiple signal cycles before making it through the intersection.



**FREQUENT CRASHES:** 92 crashes (1 fatality) reported in the last 5 years equaled \$15.9 million in damages, the 2nd highest in the state for similar intersections. Both the crash rate (1.72) and crash severity (2.41) are almost 4 times above state averages for similar intersections, 0.45 and 0.63 respectively.

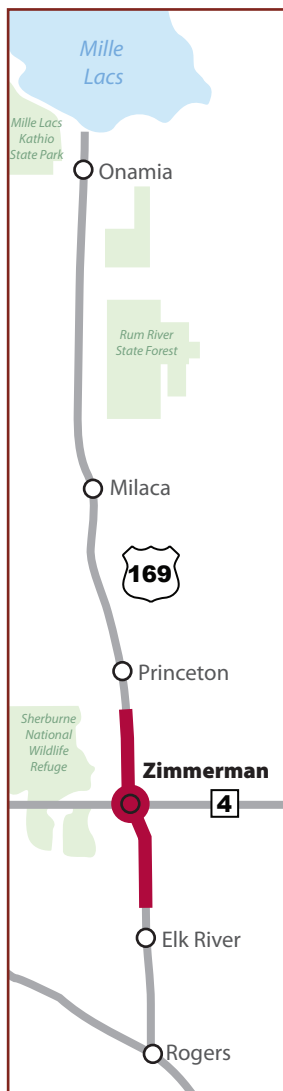


**OBSTACLES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

The uncertain future of the intersection and poor access greatly hinder the sale of existing commercial properties. On the west side of Hwy 169, a lack of highway access is a major barrier to the development of large vacant properties.



**HIGHWAY HURDLE:** All the traffic freed up by the *Hwy 169 Redefine* project in Elk River may have to stop at the traffic signal in Zimmerman.



## Benefits of a New Interchange



**SIGNAL-FREE TRAFFIC CORRIDOR:**

Converting the intersection to an interchange would **eliminate the last remaining traffic signal** on the 75-mile stretch of Hwy 169 between Rogers and Lake Mille Lacs.

**MEET FUTURE TRAFFIC NEEDS:**

Constructing a highway interchange now will alleviate current issues and will accommodate the expected future **increase in traffic volumes.**



**SUPPORTED ECONOMIC GROWTH:**

An efficient road network would support Sherburne County's **economic vitality** for existing commerce and planned commercial and industrial growth. Controlled and safe access on and off Hwy 169 would support future development of 140 acres adjacent to the highway.

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE CONNECTIVITY:**

Conversion to an interchange would create opportunity to **connect existing and proposed trails**, greatly improving access to parks and other scenic and natural amenities throughout the county.

