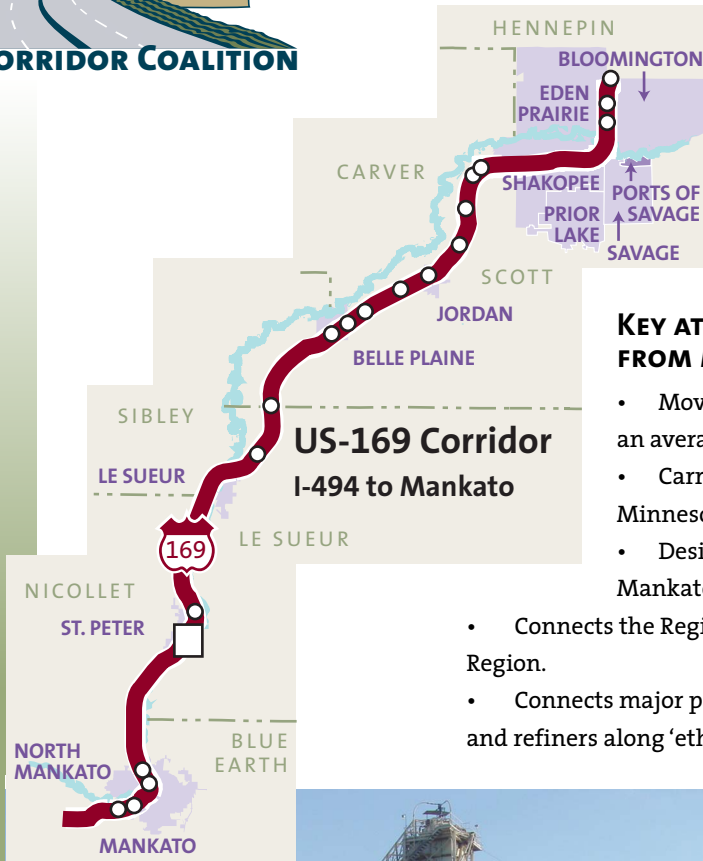




A MAJOR CONDUIT – US-169

BY ROAD AND RIVER THIS CORRIDOR MOVES FREIGHT



US-169 is the major transportation corridor for funneling freight into the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro Region from the Mankato area and southern Minnesota. This area produces almost half of Minnesota's corn, soybeans and ethanol, which makes Minnesota third in the nation for production among all states. Other major commodities moving along this corridor include aggregates, clay and sand, hogs, manufactured goods and food products.

KEY ATTRIBUTES OF US-169 FROM MANKATO TO THE TWIN CITIES

- Moves the equivalent of 30,000 tons of freight by truck per day with an average daily traffic count of 1,200-3,700 heavy commercial vehicles.
- Carries the fifth heaviest freight volume of any highway in Minnesota. The top four are I-94, I-90, I-35 and Highway 52.
- Designated a High Priority Inter-Regional Corridor (IRC) between Mankato and the Metro Region.
- Connects the Regional Trade Centers of Mankato and New Ulm to the Metro Region.
- Connects major producers of ethanol, biodiesel and their byproducts to markets and refiners along 'ethanol alley,' the southwest freight corridor formed by Highway 60 and the Union Pacific Railroad.*
- Provides one of two major conduits to the Ports of Savage for grain exports via the Minnesota and Mississippi River systems, guaranteeing low-cost, competitive transportation to regional and world markets for Minnesota farmers.
- Is expected to play a future role in expanding access from western Minnesota agricultural producers to the Ports of Savage via routes capable of bypassing Metro congestion, including highways 14, 15, 71 and 212.**

* 2007 Southwest Minnesota Regional Freight Study.

** 2009 Western Minnesota (Red River Valley) Freight Plan.



QUESTIONS

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