



## WESTBOUND I-494 ON-RAMP AT EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD

### (EBLR) AND I-494/INVERTED LOOP

The interchange at EBLR/I-494 has been without a westbound I-494 on-ramp since the original construction in 1960 shortly after the I-35W/I-494 interchange was completed. Since that time, development and redevelopment has occurred in the Normandale Lake area with the emergence of a number of high-rise office towers, hotels, four- to five-story office buildings, townhomes and high-rise condominiums to the north and south of I-494. A westbound ramp would relieve traffic problems in the area and assist in smoother operation of the already congested interchange at TH 100/I-494.

Bloomington, working with other key stakeholders Edina, Hennepin County and MNDOT, has pursued many options to achieve westbound access to I-494. These efforts resulted in an innovative “inverted loop” design that accomplishes the westbound access and does not disturb the existing freight and commercial delivery railroad tracks just west of EBLR, which was the biggest roadblock to the project.

The inverted loop design allows northbound and southbound traffic on EBLR to access eastbound or westbound I-494 through the same traffic signal system on the south side of the EBLR bridge over I-494. The bridge accommodates future designs for the I-494 corridor and this inverted loop design can be implemented without re-working any of the existing infrastructure that was completed in this area (adding a third general purpose lane to the I-494 corridor).

A number of project requirements have already been

completed to expedite this project delivery:

- Categorical Exemption status to expedite the environmental requirements.
- Traffic modeling for the interstate and the local area.
- No right-of-way needed.
- Layout complete.
- Partially funded.
- Included in Comprehensive Plans for Bloomington and Edina.
- Interchange Warrant Analysis complete.
- FHWA and MNDOT endorsed project.

### FUNDING NEEDED

This project has completed many of the necessary steps to move forward with one major exception – full funding. The City of Bloomington and Hennepin County have some matching funds programmed. A state appropriation of \$20 million would fully-fund the project.

### QUESTIONS

For more information, contact Deputy Public Works Director Jim Gates at 952-563-8730, email: [jgates@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jgates@BloomingtonMN.gov).