

# Level 3 Evaluation

## Evaluation Overview

The Minnesota Department of Transportation looked at several potential solutions for Highway 65 between County Road 10/Mounds View Boulevard in Spring Lake Park and Bunker Lake Boulevard in Ham Lake. We assessed how well a potential solution addressed the problems on Highway 65 – vehicle safety, traffic operations, and walking and bicycling access. We conducted three levels of evaluation to identify the potential

solutions that best addressed these problems. At each level, the analysis was more detailed and fewer potential solutions moved forward.

Additional planning and community input will be needed to turn the results of this high level study into specific construction projects.

## Corridor Alternatives

The three full corridor alternatives that we evaluated include:

### ALTERNATIVE 1

Alternative 1 is a freeway north of 93rd Avenue. South of 93rd, there would be improvements to the County Road 10 and US 10 interchanges.

### ALTERNATIVE 2

Alternative 2 is a hybrid freeway north of 93rd Avenue and turns into a superstreet near Bunker Lake Blvd. South of 93rd, there would be improvements to the County Road 10 and US 10 interchanges.

### ALTERNATIVE 3

Alternative 3 is a hybrid freeway north of 93rd Avenue but includes an interchange at 109th Avenue. South of 93rd, there would be improvements to the County Road 10 and US 10 interchanges.

#### CORRIDOR SECTIONS:

*While grouped into three full corridor alternatives, the potential solutions for different sections of the roadway **can be mixed and matched** with similar results.*

## Level 3 Evaluation Results

### BENEFITS

All three alternatives would improve travel for people on and across Highway 65, including:

- ✓ **Shorter travel time for vehicles driving along Highway 65:** The trip from Bunker Lake Boulevard to County Road 10/Mounds View Boulevard will be approximately 30 minutes faster than today!
- ✓ **Shorter wait time for vehicles crossing Highway 65:** The time it takes to cross will be faster even though you may have to drive a little out of your way to cross!
- ✓ **Improved safety for all users:** Significantly fewer points of potential conflict between people driving, walking and bicycling!
- ✓ **Easier walking and bicycling along Highway 65:** A new trail on both sides of Highway 65 will connect to the existing frontage roads in the area!
- ✓ **Safer crossings for walking and biking:** New bridges and crossings will make it easier to cross Highway 65!

### IMPACTS

While all three alternatives produce similar benefits, there are big differences in their impact on the community and construction costs, including:

- + Impacts to nearby landowners and businesses, particularly in the stretch of Highway 65 from 93rd Avenue NE to 117th Avenue NE, are very different between alternatives.
  - Alternative 1:
  - Alternative 2:
  - Alternative 3:
- + North of 93rd Avenue NE, the cost to construct and performance versus cost (benefits gained compared to cost) are different between alternatives.
  - Alternative 1:
  - Alternative 2: /
  - Alternative 3:
- + Impacts to the environment are minimal in all three alternatives.

# Section 1

Section 1 includes the stretch from approximately 81st Avenue NE in Spring Lake Park to approximately 95th Avenue in Blaine.



## Level 3 Evaluation Summary:

*Evaluated Alternatives:*

	Existing Conditions: Leave things as they are	Alternative 1: Freeway	Alternative 2: Hybrid Freeway and Superstreet	Alternative 3: Hybrid Freeway with Interchange
<b>VEHICLE SAFETY</b>				
Are unsafe vehicle conditions addressed?	✗	✓	✓	✓
<b>TRAFFIC OPERATIONS</b>				
Are vehicles able to travel along Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are vehicles able to cross Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Can more vehicles travel on Hwy 65 before it is congested?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Is current transit service maintained?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are freight vehicles able to travel between key destinations in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
<b>WALKING AND BICYCLING</b>				
Are people able to cross Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are people able to safely and comfortably move along Hwy 65?	✗	✓	✓	✓

### EVALUATION LEGEND

 Addresses the question well

 Addresses the question okay

 Addresses the question poorly

 Addresses the question negatively or does not address

### LEARN MORE

Reference the Level 3 Evaluation matrix to view the full analysis results for each concept.

# Section 1

## Level 3 Evaluation Summary, continued:

Community				
Are impacts to existing landowners and businesses minimized?	N/A	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Is visibility and access to existing properties maintained?	N/A	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Are impacts to low income and minority communities avoided or minimized?	N/A	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Environment				
Are impacts to wetlands avoided or minimized?	N/A	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>
Are impacts to floodplains avoided or minimized?	N/A	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>
Are impacts to parks avoided or minimized?	N/A	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>
Are contaminated properties avoided?	N/A	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>
Is adding additional impervious surface avoided or minimized?	N/A	<span style="color: red;">-</span>	<span style="color: red;">-</span>	<span style="color: red;">-</span>
Other Considerations				
Are construction costs low?	N/A	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>
Do the benefits outweigh the costs?	N/A	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>	<span style="color: green;">✓</span>
Are impacts to travelers during construction avoided or minimized?	N/A	<span style="color: red;">-</span>	<span style="color: red;">-</span>	<span style="color: red;">-</span>

### Evaluation Legend

✓ Addresses the question well

● Addresses the question okay

- Addresses the question poorly

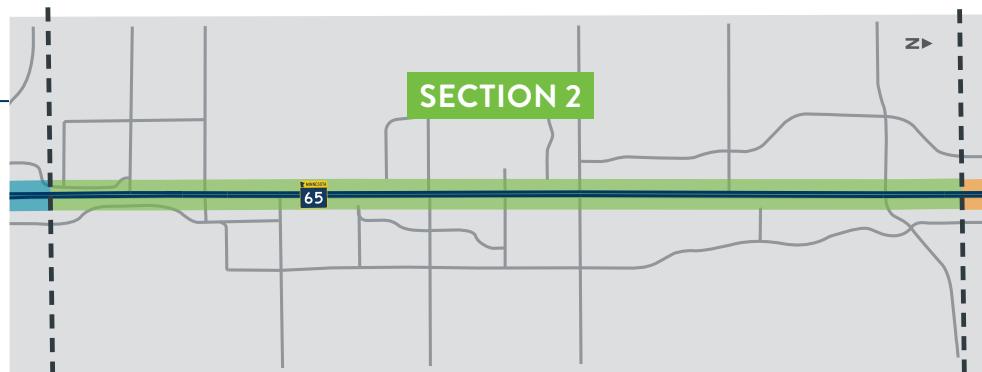
✗ Addresses the question negatively or does not address

### LEARN MORE

Reference the Level 3 Evaluation matrix to view the full analysis results for each concept.

## Section 2

Section 2 includes the stretch of Highway 65 from approximately 95th Ave NE in Blaine, MN to approximately 117th Ave NE/Cloud Drive NE in Blaine, MN.



### Level 3 Evaluation Summary:

Evaluated Alternatives:	Existing Conditions: Leave things as they are	Alternative 1: Freeway	Alternative 2: Hybrid Freeway and Superstreet	Alternative 3: Hybrid Freeway with Interchange
<b>VEHICLE SAFETY</b>				
Are unsafe vehicle conditions addressed?	✗	✓	✓	✓
<b>TRAFFIC OPERATIONS</b>				
Are vehicles able to travel along Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are vehicles able to cross Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Can more vehicles travel on Hwy 65 before it is congested?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Is current transit service maintained?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are freight vehicles able to travel between key destinations in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
<b>WALKING AND BICYCLING</b>				
Are people able to cross Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are people able to safely and comfortably move along Hwy 65?	✗	✓	✓	✓

#### EVALUATION LEGEND

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Reference the Level 3 Evaluation matrix to view the full analysis results for each concept.

# Section 2

## Level 3 Evaluation Summary, continued:

Community				
Are impacts to existing landowners and businesses minimized?	N/A	-	✓	●
Is visibility and access to existing properties maintained?	N/A	●	●	●
Are impacts to low income and minority communities avoided or minimized?	N/A	-	✓	●
Environment				
Are impacts to wetlands avoided or minimized?	N/A	●	✓	✓
Are impacts to floodplains avoided or minimized?	N/A	●	●	●
Are impacts to parks avoided or minimized?	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Are contaminated properties avoided?	N/A	●	✓	✓
Is adding additional impervious surface avoided or minimized?	N/A	-	-	-
Other Considerations				
Are construction costs low?	N/A	●	●	-
Do the benefits outweigh the costs?	N/A	●	●	-
Are impacts to travelers during construction avoided or minimized?	N/A	-	●	●

### Evaluation Legend

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# Section 3

Section 3 includes the stretch of Highway 65 from approximately 117th Ave NE/Cloud Drive NE in Blaine, MN to approximately 143rd Avenue NE in Ham Lake, MN.



## Level 3 Evaluation Summary:

*Evaluated Alternatives:*

	Existing Conditions: Leave things as they are	Alternative 1: Freeway	Alternative 2: Hybrid Freeway and Superstreet	Alternative 3: Hybrid Freeway with Interchange
<b>VEHICLE SAFETY</b>				
Are unsafe vehicle conditions addressed?	✗	✓	✓	✓
<b>TRAFFIC OPERATIONS</b>				
Are vehicles able to travel along Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are vehicles able to cross Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	●	✓
Can more vehicles travel on Hwy 65 before it is congested?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Is current transit service maintained?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are freight vehicles able to travel between key destinations in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
<b>WALKING AND BICYCLING</b>				
Are people able to cross Hwy 65 in less time?	✗	✓	✓	✓
Are people able to safely and comfortably move along Hwy 65?	✗	✓	✓	✓

### EVALUATION LEGEND

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Reference the Level 3 Evaluation matrix to view the full analysis results for each concept.

# Section 3

## Level 3 Evaluation Summary, continued:

Community				
Are impacts to existing landowners and businesses minimized?	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Is visibility and access to existing properties maintained?	N/A	●	✓	✓
Are impacts to low income and minority communities avoided or minimized?	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Environment				
Are impacts to wetlands avoided or minimized?	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Are impacts to floodplains avoided or minimized?	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Are impacts to parks avoided or minimized?	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Are contaminated properties avoided?	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Is adding additional impervious surface avoided or minimized?	N/A	-	-	-
Other Considerations				
Are construction costs low?	N/A	●	✓	-
Do the benefits outweigh the costs?	N/A	●	✓	-
Are impacts to travelers during construction avoided or minimized?	N/A	-	✓	●

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