

# Open houses to gather input on all forms of transportation

## Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study ongoing

**MANKATO** — Regional transportation partners invite the public to two open houses Monday to share ideas on improvements needed on different forms of transportation in the future in the Mankato region.

An open house is planned for 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. at Minnesota State University Centennial Student Union and 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Verizon Wireless Center Ballroom.

The evening open house includes a presentation by State Demographer Tom Gillaspay at 4:30 p.m., who will discuss area population trends and related transportation needs. The new Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study, known as MATAPS, will continue to work on local and state roadways and also include transit, bike trails, rail and the connections between these forms of transportation. Two previous MATAPS were done in 1996 and 2003 and focused successfully on the network of area roads.

“ The Victory Drive extension in Mankato is a good example from the previous MATAPS,” said Al Forsberg, Blue Earth County Public Works director, in a news release. “ The new route that connects city, county and state roadways required planning and support from several of the regional partners.”

MATAPS is including the work done on Envision 2020 and already has collected information from surveys and stakeholder contacts that will be shared at the open house.

A second public meeting to share a draft plan is planned for May, and a completed study is expected in August.

MATAPS partners include MnDOT District 7, Region Nine Development Commission, the cities of Mankato and North Mankato, Blue Earth, Nicollet and Le Sueur counties and Minnesota State University.

More information can be found at [www.mataps.com](http://www.mataps.com).