



Commuter Challenges

I-94 is the primary travel corridor between the Twin Cities and Eau Claire, and south and east to Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. It is home to some of the region's largest employers as well as the two major downtowns of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Peak period congestion is an increasing problem in many sections of the corridor. Average daily traffic (ADT) volumes range from:

- Eau Claire: 30,000 average daily traffic ADT
- St. Croix River Bridge: 90,000 ADT
- St. Paul / Minneapolis: 150,000 – 185,000 ADT

Population growth is also a defining characteristic of the Gateway Corridor. Steady growth is anticipated for cities and townships in the corridor between 2010 and 2030. The population in the area between Woodbury and Hudson is expected to increase by 54% while the population in St. Croix County in Wisconsin is expected to grow by 25%. Freight tonnage across the St. Croix River is expected to more than double by 2035. Transit ridership in the Gateway Corridor increased by 21% between 2003 and 2009 and the forecast for 2030 expects park-and-ride demand to double by 2030. Other trends that will contribute to increasing demand for transit service include an aging population, decreasing household size, and increasing fuel costs.

Based on these trends, the following summary problem statement has been approved by the [Policy Advisory Committee \(PAC\)](#).

- Capacity is inadequate in many segments to handle the growing transportation demands of the Gateway Corridor communities, with no programmed projects for increasing highway capacity on I-94.
- A more robust, focused multimodal transportation network is needed to provide viable options for users and achieve the diverse community land use visions, support economic development, and respond to changing corridor population characteristics.
- The increasing demand for effective transit options requires greater coordination to provide an integrated transit plan for the entire corridor.