



# Memorandum

SRF No. 11648

**To:** Michael Maddox  
Fargo-Moorhead Metro COG

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**Date:** April 3, 2020

**Subject:** US 10/75 Corridor Study – Purpose and Need Technical Memorandum

## Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to develop a vision to improve system deficiencies, multi-modal traffic operations, and safety along the US 10 corridor between the Red River and 34th Street and along US 75 between Main Avenue (US 10) and 20th Avenue South.

This purpose and need statement and the subsequent corridor study recommendations are intended to serve as a planning tool to initiate the identification of suitable and feasible alternatives for the US 10 and US 75 corridors. The corridor study results serve to inform staff and elected officials so that sound land use, economic development, and transportation planning decisions made during the planning phase can be fully linked with, and integrated into, the later phases of project development.

There are three other ongoing studies that overlap with the study area of the US 10/75 Corridor Study. The US 10/75 project team has been coordinating with the project teams from those studies to ensure a cohesive vision and plan for the corridors. Those studies include:

- Downtown Grade Separation Study and Environmental Documentation
- 12th Avenue Corridor Study
- Downtown Moorhead Master Planning

## Needs Identified

The need for the multimodal transportation improvements and the relationship to regional transportation need is based on the transportation analyses completed as part of this study. The Study Review Committee (SRC) determined sufficient need was identified to inform the framework for MnDOT's year 2025-2026 reconstruction project and warranted the development of future corridor improvement concepts for both corridors.

It was determined that future corridor planning and improvements should address the following critical needs and considerations for each respective corridor:

**US 10**

- Pavement Condition
- Vehicle Safety
- Vehicle Mobility
- Walkability/Bikeability
- Systemic Safety Risk Location

**US 75**

- Pavement Condition
- Vehicle Safety
- Vehicle Mobility
- Walkability/Bikeability
- Systemic Safety Risk Location

**Pavement Condition**

The pavement along the project segment of US 10 is a composite of original grading concrete with several bituminous asphalt overlays and full depth bituminous asphalt widening for additional lanes and turn lanes. Bituminous cores collected along the segment show overlay thicknesses ranging from 4.5” to 5.0”. Along the study area of US 10, the full depth bituminous asphalt widened section has a thickness ranging from 7.5” to 13.0” and the turn lane widened section has a thickness ranging from 6.0” to 7”. The most recent pavement improvements include:

- Red River to 8th Street (US 75) – 2.0” mill & overlay in 2013
- 8th Street (US 75) to 14th Street – 2.0” mill & overlay in 2016
- 14th Street to 34th Street – 2.0” mill & overlay in 2009/2010

The pavement along the project segment of 8th Street (US 75) is a composite of original grading concrete with several bituminous overlays and full depth bituminous asphalt widening for additional lanes and turn lanes. The most recent pavement improvements include:

- 2nd Avenue to 20th Avenue – 2.0” mill & overlay in 2009/2010
- Center Avenue (US 10/75) to 2nd Avenue – 2.0” mill & overlay in 2016

MnDOT typically uses the ride quality index (RQI) to measure pavement smoothness but considering the urban setting of the project and potentially skewed results from features in the roadway, like manhole castings and gate valve riser boxes, it was decided to use Surface Rating (SR) to represent pavement condition and distress. The SR is based on visible defects in the pavement surface, which indicate some problem or phenomenon of pavement deterioration such as cracks, patches, and/or ruts. The SR varies from 0.0 to 4.0 and is reported to the nearest tenth. A higher SR means a better condition. A road in need of major rehabilitation or reconstruction will generally have an SR near or below 2.0 to 2.5. From the data, MnDOT estimates an “Estimate Need Year” for when pavement is expected to reach “poor” SR conditions and thus, require attention.

Roadway infrastructure data was provided by MnDOT and is summarized in Table 1. As shown in the table, based on the SR the estimated need year for the corridor ranges from year 2021 to 2027.

**Table 1. Pavement Condition – Surface Rating (SR)**

Segment	Length	Surface Rating (2018)	AADT	Last Year Worked on	Estimated Need Year
Main Avenue (US 10) from the River to 8th Street	0.428	2.7	17,858	2013	2021
Center Avenue (US 10/US 75) from 8th Street to 11th Street	0.244	3.7	9,498	2016	2027
Center Avenue (US 10/US 75) from 11th Street to 14th Street	0.25	3.5	9,498	2016	2026
Center Avenue (US 10/US 75) from 14th Street to 21st Street/1st Avenue	0.66	3.6	12,886	2009	2026
Center Avenue (US 10) from 21st Street/1st Avenue to 34th Street	2.494	3.6	16,221	2010	2026
8th Street (US 10/US 75) from Main Avenue to Center Avenue	0.16	3.7	16,452	2016	2026
8th Street (US 75) from 2nd Avenue to 10th Avenue	0.619	2.9	16,452	2010	2022
8th Street (US 75) from 10th Avenue to 20th Avenue	0.673	3.1	25,563	2010	2024

### Vehicle Safety

A crash analysis was performed for key intersections and roadway segments along the US 10 and US 75 corridors based on data from the time period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2017. Two study intersections and two segments were identified to have a crash rate above the critical crash rate:

- **Center Avenue (US 10)/34th Street:**
  - 64 crashes, no severe crashes reported.
- **8th Street (US 75)/2nd Avenue:**
  - 16 crashes, no severe crashes reported.
- **Main Avenue (US 10) from the River to 9th Street:**
  - 71 crashes, one injury type A crash reported.
- **Center Avenue (US 10) from 21st Street/1st Avenue to 34th Street:**
  - 152 crashes, no severe crashes reported.

Detailed crash information is provided in the *Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum*, dated March 2019, in the Safety Analysis section.

## Vehicle Mobility

### Existing Conditions

Results of the existing capacity analysis indicate that all study intersections currently operate at an acceptable overall LOS C or better during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours with existing the traffic controls and geometric layout. Detailed traffic operations information is provided in the *Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum*, dated March 2019, in the Existing Intersection Capacity Analysis section. While the intersections operate at overall acceptable levels of service, the following should be noted:

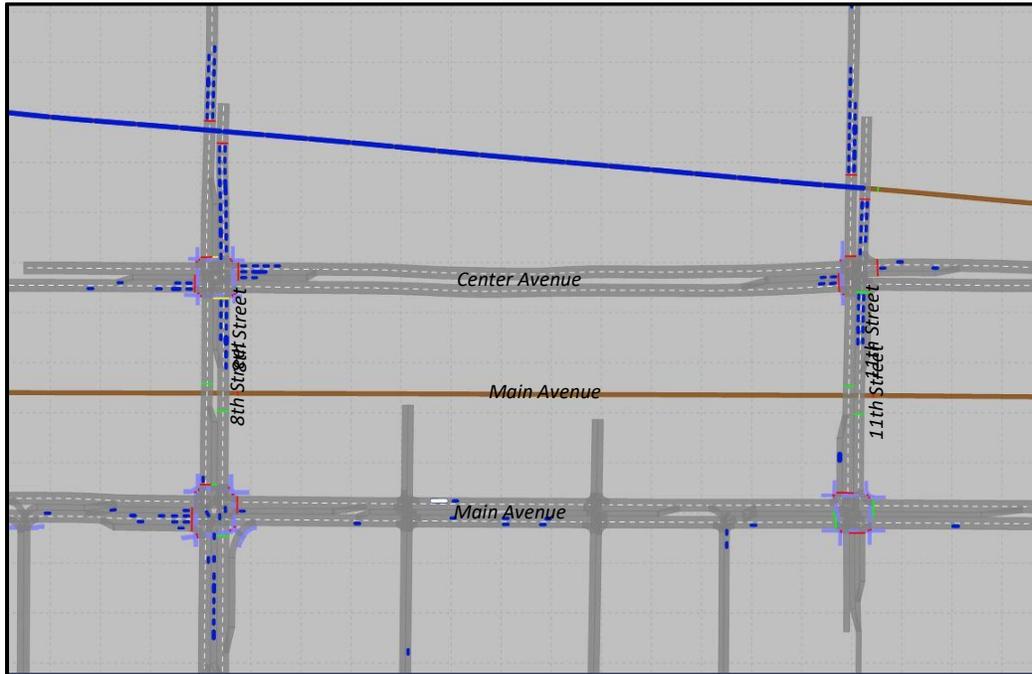
- **Center Avenue (US 10)/30th Street:**
  - During the p.m. peak hour, the northbound and southbound left/thru movements operate at LOS F.
  - Observations were conducted at this intersection to understand current driver behavior. A majority of northbound and southbound vehicles entering this intersection do not utilize the intersection as a two-stage crossing. This intersection (unlike the 24th Street, 26th Street, and 28th Street intersections) is not signed as a two-stage crossing (i.e., there is no yield sign in center median).
  - Since this is not a two-stage crossing, this creates a long crossing distance (approximately 125 feet) for northbound/southbound vehicles making left/thru movements.
  - Northbound/southbound vehicles were observed to reverse/turn around to avoid taking a left/thru movement.
- **8th Street (US 75)/2nd Avenue:**
  - During the p.m. peak hour, the westbound approach operates at LOS E.

Typical traffic operations during a train event for the Prosper Line and the KO Line are illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2, respectively. In Downtown Moorhead, there are at-grade train crossings at five (5) locations between Main Avenue and Center Avenue and four (4) locations between 1st Avenue and Center Avenue. The trains impact intersection operations resulting in poor travel time reliability in the downtown area:

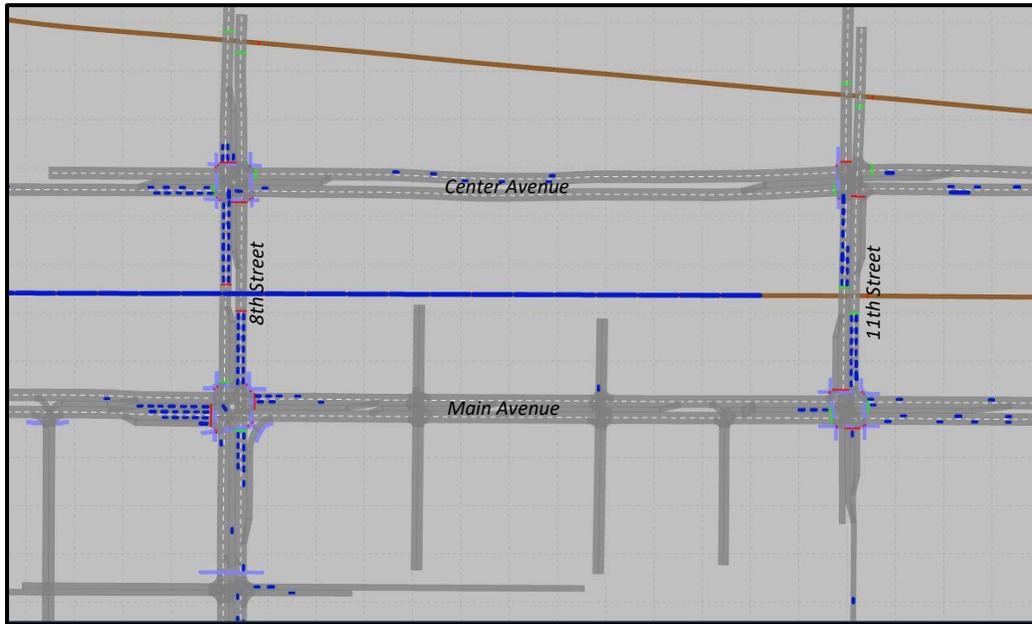
- Generally during train events, queuing will extend into the adjacent intersection. After the train events (i.e. the gate arms raise), many vehicles can clear in one signal cycle, with a portion of vehicles taking two cycles to clear.
- Trains along the KO Line trains on average were observed to last 2 minutes and 50 seconds, with a maximum observed train length of 5 minutes. Trains along the Prosper Line on average lasted 7 minutes and 15 seconds, with a maximum observed train length of 13 minutes.
- During train events, vehicles were observed to reroute through the study area to avoid the train. While train events were analyzed, the analysis did not account for dynamic travel pattern shifts

that occur during these events. The traffic modeling software was calibrated to account for current travel patterns collected/observed.

**Figure 1. Train Operations During the PM Peak Hour - Prosper Line Train Queuing**



**Figure 2. Traffic Operations During the PM Peak Hour - KO Line Train Queuing**



### **Year 2045 No Build Conditions**

Results of the year 2045 no build capacity analysis indicate that all study intersections are expected to continue to operate at an acceptable overall LOS D or better during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours. No modifications to intersection geometry was assumed; however, the analysis does include modifications to the existing signal timing and assumes the jurisdictional transfer of US 10 from Center Avenue to Main Avenue between 8th Street and 11th Street, which is planned to occur prior to year 2045 conditions. Detailed traffic operations information is provided in the *Year 2045 Conditions Technical Memorandum*, dated April 2020, in the Year 2045 No Build Conditions section. While the intersections operate at overall acceptable levels of service, the following should be noted:

- **Main Avenue (US 10)/4th Street:**
  - Eastbound queues are expected to extend approximately 700 feet during the p.m. peak hour.
- **Center Avenue (US 10/75)/11th Street:**
  - The southbound approach is expected to operate in the LOS E/F range with maximum queues extending more than 400 feet during the p.m. peak hour. Operations and queuing are due to a combination of train events and poor lane utilization for vehicles positioning themselves for the Main Avenue/11th Street intersection.
- **Center Avenue (US 10/75)/21st Street/1st Avenue:**
  - The northbound right-turn movement is expected to operate in the LOS D/E range with maximum queues extending 600 feet or greater during the p.m. peak hour.
- **Center Avenue (US 10)/28th Street:**
  - The northbound movement is expected to operate at a LOS E during the p.m. peak hour.
- **Center Avenue (US 10)/30th Street:**
  - Side-street movements are anticipated to operate at a LOS F during p.m. peak hour with delays of two (2) minutes or greater.
- **8th Street (US 75) at 2nd Avenue and 4th Avenue:**
  - Side-street movements are anticipated to operate at the LOS E/F border during a.m. and p.m. peak hours.
- **8th Street (US 75)/12th Avenue:**
  - Maximum mainline queues are anticipated to extend 600 feet or greater during the p.m. peak. The eastbound thru/right-turn lane and westbound left-turn lane maximum queues are expected to extend approximately 450 feet.

### **Walkability/Bikeability**

Pedestrian and bicycle volumes were collected during the weekday a.m. and p.m. peak hours at the study intersections. Total observed crossings at the study intersections are illustrated in Figure 3 along with key pedestrian/bicycle generators in the study area, such as schools, parks, retail, etc. It should be noted that the crossing data was collected between year 2011 and year 2018 with data collected in warmer weather months while school was in session was utilized for mapping purposes. The 8th Street (US 75)/12th Avenue intersection had the highest observed pedestrian activity. This intersection bisects the Concordia College Campus. During days when school is in session, more than 300 pedestrians per hour have been observed to cross at this intersection. The redevelopment plans in Downtown Moorhead are expected to increase the pedestrian/bicycle activity in the study area.

The existing and proposed bike network is illustrated in Figure 4. There is an existing gap in the sidewalk network along Center Avenue (US 10/75) between 11th Street and 28th Street. As shown in Figure 3, no other existing trails or trails programmed for construction are included elsewhere along the US 10/75 study corridors based on the 2016 *Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan*.

Figure 3. Existing Pedestrian Crossing Volumes

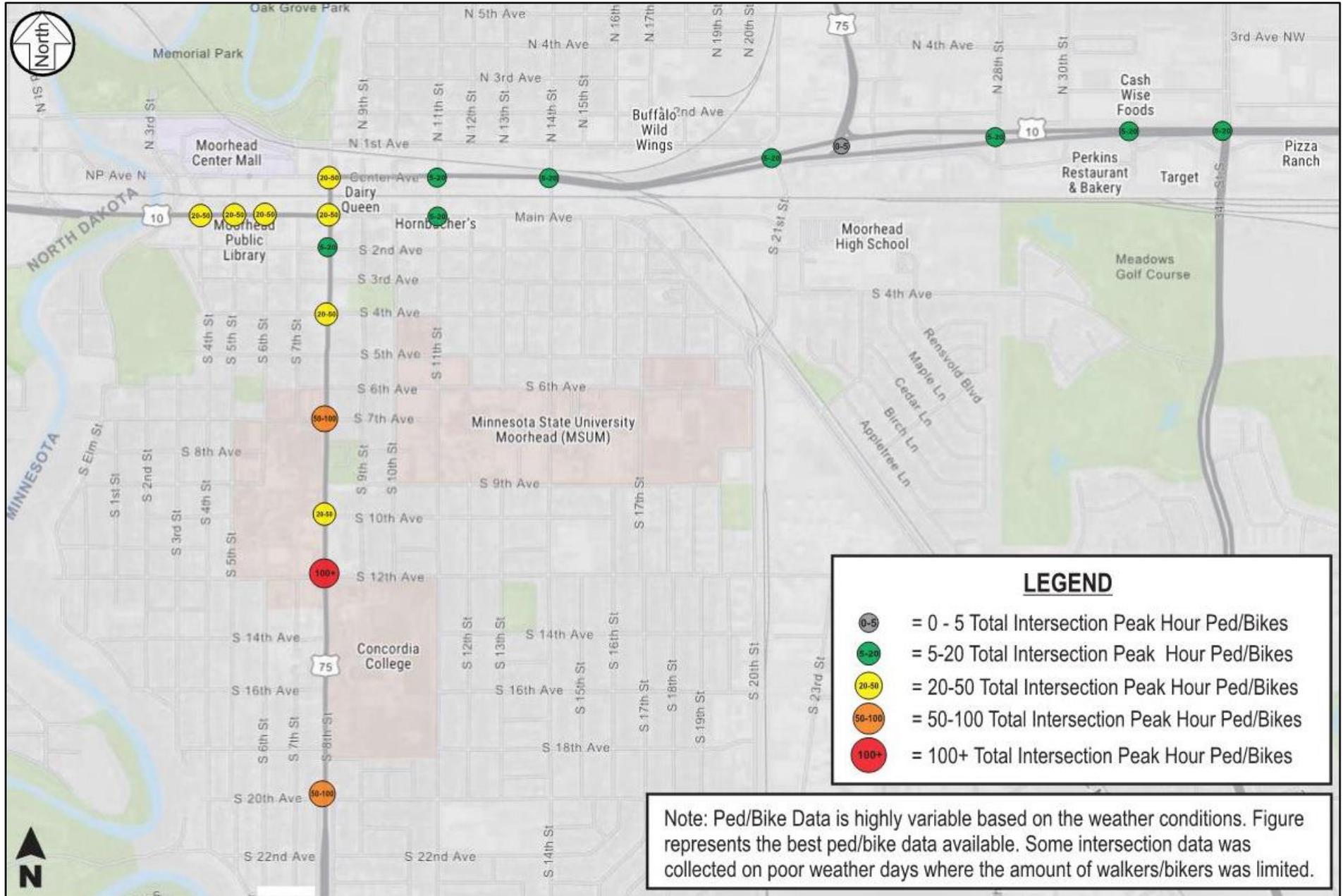
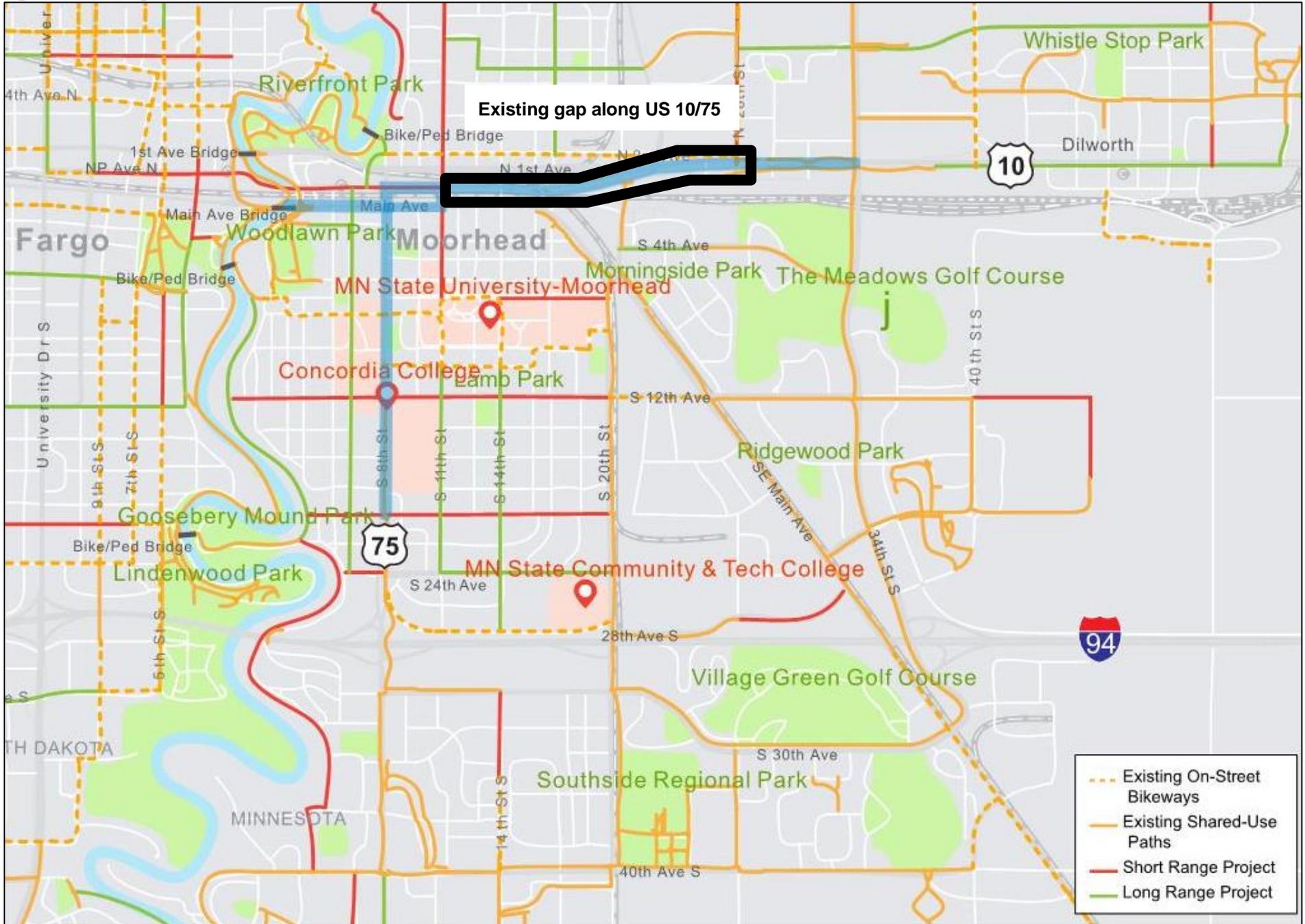


Figure 4. Existing and Planned Bike Network



## Systemic Safety Risk Location

Severe crashes may be widely (but not randomly) scattered around the highway system. Therefore, the basic premise behind the systemic risk assessment approach is to examine the system to prioritize candidates according to the similar characteristics attributed to severe crashes. Locations with more characteristics associated with locations with severe crashes are more “at-risk” and, therefore, are a higher priority for safety investment. A systemic safety analysis can be used to prioritize locations with few or no crashes that may be good candidates for safety investments. Therefore, a systemic risk location is an opportunity, not an existing transportation “issue”.

The May 2016 *MnDOT District 4 Safety Plan Update* identified all study segments and 18 intersections along the US 10/75 corridor study areas as being “at risk” locations. Note that for segments, 1 star = lowest risk, and 5 stars = highest risk. For intersections, 1 star = lowest risk and 8 stars = highest risk. In urban areas, 78 percent of severe crashes occur on conventional roadways (as opposed to 22 percent on roadways with some level of access management) and 61 percent of severe crashes occur at intersections, of which 48 percent occur at intersections with traffic signal control and 48 percent at thru-stop controlled intersections.

As shown in Table 2, all study segments were identified as “at risk” locations. Segments range from three (3) to four (4) stars. Stars were given for segments based on the average daily traffic volumes, roadway geometry, access density, speed limit, and primary land use, as described below:

- **Traffic volume range:** a star is given for segments with daily traffic volumes greater than 9,000 vehicles per day (vpd). All study segments received a star.
- **Roadway geometry:** a star is given for segments that are multi-lane (four or more lanes). All study segments received a star.
- **Access density:** a star is given for segments with 36 or more accesses per mile. Stars were given to the three segments closest to Downtown Moorhead, including along Main Avenue (US 10) between the River and 8th Street, along Center Avenue (US 10/75) between 8th Street and 14th Street, and along 8th Street (US 75) between Center Avenue (US 10/75) and 14th Avenue.
- **Speed limit:** a star is given for segments with speeds between 35 and 45 miles per hour (mph). A star was given to the segment along Center Avenue (US 10/75) between 14th Street and 34th Street and along 8th Street (US 75) between 14th Avenue and 20th Avenue.
- **Primary land use:** a star is given for segments with urban or suburban retail; therefore, a star was given to the three US 10 segments.

**Table 2. District 4 – Urban Segment Ranking**

#	Corridor ID	Route System	Route No.	Start	End	Length	Speed Limit	ADT Range	Road Geometry	Access Density	Speed Limit Range	Primary Land Use	Severe HO + RE + SSP + SSO Crash Density	Total Stars	Crash Cost	Access Density
4	4.010.003	USTH	10	.1 MI W 14TH ST (SL 45)	W DILWORTH (SL 30)	2.37	45	*	*		*	*		****	\$5,579,000	11.4
5	4.010.001	USTH	10	NORTH DAKOTA STATE LINE (SL 30)	S JCT US 75	0.40	30	*	*	*		*		****	\$4,395,200	55.0
6	4.010.002	USTH	10	W JCT US 75 (SL 30)	.1 MI W 14TH ST (SL 45)	0.41	30	*	*	*		*		****	\$1,945,600	72.5
12	4.075.028	USTH	75	1 MI S W JCT US10 (SL 30)	W JCT US 10	1.01	30	*	*	*				***	\$6,038,000	55.2
13	4.075.027	USTH	75	.47 MI S JCT I 94 (SL 40)	1 MI S W JCT US 10 (SL 30)	1.39	40	*	*		*			***	\$5,705,800	12.2

The *MnDOT District 4 Safety Plan Update* stated that right-angle collisions and pedestrian involved crashes in urban areas were identified as priorities for safety investment and represent the greatest opportunity for reducing severe crashes in urban areas across the state system. The most common types of severe crashes at traffic signal and thru-stop controlled intersections are right-angle collisions (45 percent) and pedestrian or bicyclist involved collisions (13 percent). Therefore, intersections were prioritized based on right-angle crashes and pedestrian crashes.

As shown in Table 3, 18 intersections were identified to be at-risk based on right-angle collisions. At-risk intersections range from three (3) to seven (7) stars. Stars were given for intersections based on the average daily traffic volumes, volume cross product, traffic control, major corridor speed, skew, adjacent curve, primary land use, and severe right-angle crash history, as described below:

- **Volume cross product:** a star is given if the cross product (vehicles per day) exceeds 3,000,000. All intersections in Table 3 received a star.
- **Traffic control:** a star is given for intersections that are signalized. 12 of the 18 intersections received a star.
- **Major corridor speed:** a star is given for locations where traffic volumes exceed 40 mph. 8 of the 18 intersections received a star.
- **Skew:** a star is given for intersections where the skew is five (5) degrees or greater. 6 of the 18 intersections received a star.
- **Adjacent curve:** a star is given for intersections where a curve is present. 5 of the 18 intersections received a star.
- **Primary land use:** a star is given for segments with urban or suburban retail 16 of the 18 intersections received a star.
- **Severe right-angle crash history:** a star is given for intersections with 0.006 crashes per intersection per year. Center Avenue (US 10)/30th Street was the only intersection to receive a star.

**Table 3. District 4 – Urban Intersections – Right-Angle Ranking**

#	Intersection ID	Route System	Route No.	Description	Speed Limit	Total Entering ADT	Cross Product	Traffic Control	Major Corridor Speed	Skew	On/Near Curve	Primary Land Use	Severe RA Crash Density	Total Stars
4	4.010.009	US	10	21ST ST SRT 1ST AVN/MOORHEAD	45	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★★★★★★
5	4.010.012	US	10	30TH ST/MOORHEAD	45	★	★		★	★	★	★	★	★★★★★★
6	4.010.010	US	10	E JCT TH 75/MOORHEAD	45	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★★★★★★
9	4.010.008	US	10	14TH ST MSAS 122/MOORHEAD	45	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★★★★★★
15	4.075.107	US	75	7TH AVE/MOORHEAD	45	★	★		★	★	★	★		★★★★★
22	4.010.011	US	10	28TH ST/MOORHEAD	45	★	★		★	★		★		★★★★
26	4.010.013	US	10	32ND ST RTM 417/MOORHEAD	45	★	★	★	★			★		★★★★
29	4.010.005	US	10	S JCT TH 75 MAIN & 8TH/MRHD	30	★	★	★				★		★★★★
31	4.075.103	US	75	12TH AVE S/MOORHEAD	30	★	★	★				★		★★★★
32	4.010.006	US	10	W JCT TH 75 CENTER & 8TH/MRHD	30	★	★	★				★		★★★★
34	4.075.102	US	75	20TH AVE S/MOORHEAD	40	★	★	★	★					★★★★
35	4.010.007	US	10	11TH ST CSAH 3MSAS121/MOORHD	30	★	★	★				★		★★★★
36	4.010.002	US	10	5TH ST/MOORHEAD	30	★	★	★				★		★★★★
37	4.010.001	US	10	4TH ST/MOORHEAD	30	★	★	★				★		★★★★
54	4.075.104	US	75	7TH AVE S/MOORHEAD	30	★	★	★						★★★
55	4.075.106	US	75	2ND AV S MSAS111 M32/MOORHEAD	30	★	★					★		★★★
59	4.010.004	US	10	7TH ST MSAS 107/MOORHEAD	30	★	★					★		★★★
60	4.075.105	US	75	4TH AV S MSAS116/MOORHEAD	30	★	★					★		★★★

As shown in Table 4, 19 intersections were identified to be at-risk based on pedestrian and bicycle concerns. At-risk intersections range from three (3) to seven (7) stars. Stars were given for intersections based on the average daily traffic volumes, volume cross product, traffic control, major corridor speed, skew, adjacent curve, primary land use, and severe right-angle crash history. roadway geometry, access density, speed limit, primary land use, and pedestrian/bicycle crash density, as described below:

- **Volume cross product:** a star is given if the cross product (vehicles per day) exceeds 3,000,000. All intersections in Table 3 received a star.
- **Traffic control:** a star is given for intersections that are signalized. 13 of the 19 intersections received a star.
- **Major corridor speed:** a star is given for locations where traffic volumes exceed 35 mph. 8 of the 19 intersections received a star.
- **Skew:** a star is given for intersections where the skew is five (5) degrees or greater. 6 of the 19 intersections received a star.

- **Adjacent curve:** a star is given for intersections where a curve is present. 5 of the 19 intersections received a star.
- **Primary land use:** a star is given for segments with urban or suburban retail 17 of the 19 intersections received a star.
- **Severe pedestrian/bicycle crash history:** a star is given for intersections with 0.001 crashes per intersection per year. Main Avenue (US 10)/6th Street was the only intersection to receive a star.

**Table 4. District 4 – Ped/Bike Ranking**

#	Intersection ID	Route System	Route No.	Description	Speed Limit	Total Entering ADT	Cross Product	Traffic Control	Major Corridor Speed	Skew	On/Near Curve	Primary Land Use	Severe Ped/Bike Crash Density	Total Stars	Crash Cost
4	4.010.009	US	10	21ST ST SRT 1ST AVN/MOORHEAD	45	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*****	\$1,114,800
5	4.010.010	US	10	E JCT TH 75/MOORHEAD	45	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*****	\$885,400
9	4.010.008	US	10	14TH ST MSAS 122/MOORHEAD	45	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*****	\$88,400
13	4.010.012	US	10	30TH ST/MOORHEAD	45	*	*		*	*	*	*		*****	\$1,098,600
15	4.075.107	US	75	7TH AVE/MOORHEAD	45	*	*		*	*	*	*		*****	\$329,400
19	4.010.003	US	10	6TH ST M 123/MOORHEAD	30	*	*	*				*	*	*****	\$1,290,200
21	4.010.011	US	10	28TH ST/MOORHEAD	45	*	*		*	*		*		*****	\$287,400
25	4.010.013	US	10	32ND ST RTM 417/MOORHEAD	45	*	*	*	*			*		*****	\$177,200
28	4.010.005	US	10	S JCT TH 75 MAIN & 8TH/MRHD	30	*	*	*				*		****	\$2,535,800
31	4.075.103	US	75	12TH AVE S/MOORHEAD	30	*	*	*				*		****	\$1,385,600
32	4.010.006	US	10	W JCT TH 75 CENTER&	30	*	*	*				*		****	\$1,200,400
34	4.075.102	US	75	20TH AVE S/MOORHEAD	40	*	*	*	*					****	\$1,169,800
35	4.010.007	US	10	11TH ST CSAH 3MSAS121/MOORH	30	*	*	*				*		****	\$1,156,000
36	4.010.002	US	10	5TH ST/MOORHEAD	30	*	*	*				*		****	\$1,151,000
37	4.010.001	US	10	4TH ST/MOORHEAD	30	*	*	*				*		****	\$998,000
54	4.075.104	US	75	7TH AVE S/MOORHEAD	30	*	*	*						***	\$847,800
55	4.075.106	US	75	2ND AV S MSAS111 M32/MOORHEAD	30	*	*					*		***	\$729,800
59	4.010.004	US	10	7TH ST MSAS 107/MOORHEAD	30	*	*					*		***	\$191,600
60	4.075.105	US	75	4TH AV S MSAS116/MOORHE	30	*	*					*		***	\$140,200