



# FORGOTTEN THE BRIDGE

## County Road 9 / Rockford Rd. Bridge Over Interstate 494

City of Plymouth bonding request  
for county/state infrastructure

### > THE PURPOSE

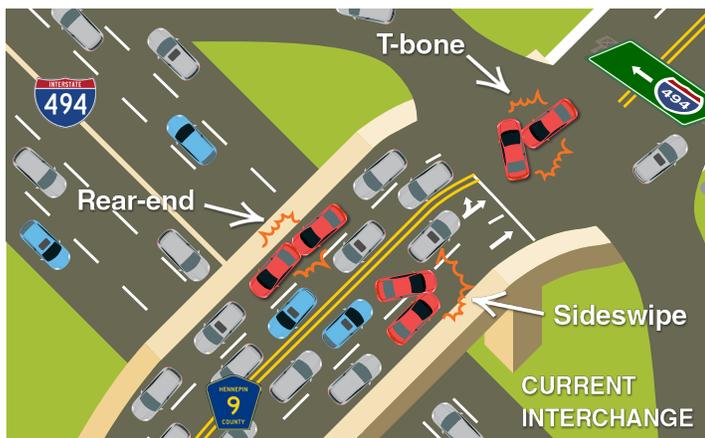
To **improve public safety** and **reduce congestion**, the City of Plymouth is seeking \$10.7 million in state bond funds to reconstruct the 52-year-old County Road 9 / Rockford Road bridge over I-494.

This vital interchange consists of a county road bridge over an interstate freeway, which was not upgraded during the I-494 project. Though it's not city-owned infrastructure, the city is advocating for funding from the state to finish the job.

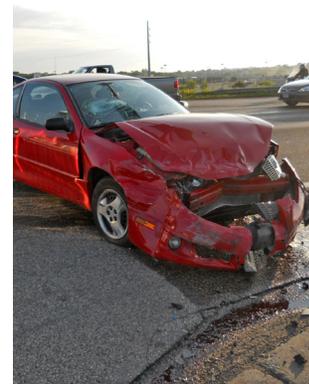
### > THE PROBLEM

**Public safety hazard.**  
A diamond interchange without dedicated left turn lanes, the bridge is the site of daily congestion and has averaged 33 crashes per year over the past five years.

**Over capacity.** Built in 1965, the bridge cannot accommodate existing traffic volumes and turning movements.



Without dedicated left turn lanes, drivers must often wait for breaks in oncoming traffic to turn left onto I-494. Crashes occur when drivers veer from the left lane into the right through lane to avoid waiting. Rear-end and T-bone crashes are also common.



Averaging 33 crashes per year, the bridge's lack of dedicated left turn lanes is a danger to public safety.

### > THE SOLUTION

The proposed diamond interchange will help improve public safety and traffic flow, and reduce congestion.



The proposed diamond interchange features dual left turn lanes onto I-494 and two through lanes in either direction.



Proposal also includes dual left turn lanes from exit ramps.

### > CRUCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Vital regional link.** The interchange is a vital link to the regional transportation system. County Road 9 provides direct access to I-494, Highway 169, Highway 55 and Highway 100.

**Barrier to economic development.** The interchange plays an essential role in supporting the local and regional economy. However, congestion stifles business and job growth in this pivotal area of the region.

**Aging infrastructure.** Built in 1965, the bridge is approaching life expectancy and is visibly deteriorating.



*Crumbling concrete and rusty rebar can be seen on both the surface and underside of the 52-year-old bridge.*

### PLYMOUTH THEN & NOW

#### 1964 – Undeveloped

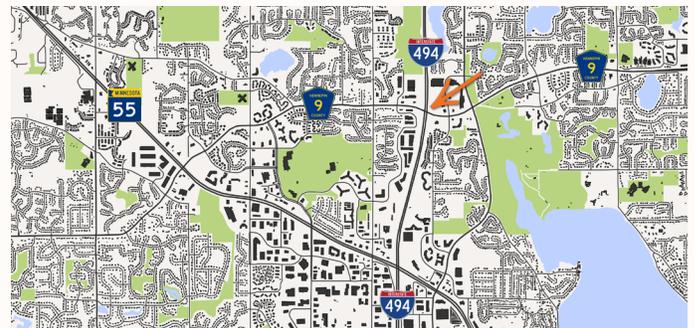
Population: 14,000 | Daily Trips: 1,500



*When the County Road 9 bridge and I-494 were constructed in 1965, Plymouth was largely undeveloped and the interchange handled about 1,500 trips per day. Plymouth grew rapidly and the bridge quickly exceeded projected traffic volumes.*

#### 2017 – Developed

Population: 75,000+ | Daily Trips: 39,140



*While development in Plymouth continues, the County Road 9 bridge handles 26 times the traffic levels than when initially constructed – an average of 39,140 vehicles per day. It has the highest traffic volume of all similar bridges over I-494.*

### > WHAT TAXPAYERS ARE SAYING

#### “Why wasn’t this fixed when they updated 494?”

When MnDOT completed the two-year, \$86 million I-494 Rehabilitation Project through Plymouth in 2016, many taxpayers were left wondering why the County Road 9 / Rockford Road bridge was seemingly forgotten.

- 
**Derrick H** Wasnt sure why they didn't do over last two summers. Better late than never....  
Jun 16, 2017
- 
**Justin G** It was disappointing to see it not happen when 494 was being finished. Better late than never is right!  
Jun 16, 2017
- 
**Jim L** I also just assumed it would be replaced with the 494 project, then I saw the New concrete stopped well short of Rockford road.  
Jun 17, 2017

- 
**Stephen S** Alright! That intersection and bridge look like something from the 1970s in a third-world country.  
Jun 17, 2017
- 
**Kelly B** I wish they would have updated the bridge 20 years ago. It has been a mess for a long time.  
Jul 14, 2017
- 
**Melissa G** 5 years! Seriously??!! Why wasn't this done when they did 494?  
Jul 13, 2017