

# Franklin Avenue (CSAH 5) and East River Parkway Intersection Study

## Hennepin County, Minnesota

Prepared for Hennepin County Department of Transportation

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### 1.0 Study Overview

Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis studied the existing and future needs for the intersection of Franklin Avenue (CSAH 5) and East River Parkway. Factors that led to the initiation of this study include:

- The intersection, which includes 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE (CSAH 5), has a confusing five-legged geometry which is difficult to navigate by car, by bicycle or as a pedestrian.
- The combination of local and commuter traffic, University of Minnesota traffic, and the high numbers of pedestrians and bicyclists, generate long delays and safety concerns for all users.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE has been approved by the Minneapolis Park Board as part of the Grand Rounds “missing link.” Bike lanes are planned on 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and on Franklin Avenue across the river.
- The planned Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line and the proposed Washington Avenue pedestrian and transit mall have raised awareness of existing intersection deficiencies.
- Growing traffic demands and changing traffic patterns will heighten concerns for safety and delay for all users of the intersection.

An aerial photo view showing the above issues in relation to the study intersection, entitled *Study Area Map* is included in **Appendix A**. An aerial photo of the existing intersection configuration is also included in Appendix A and is entitled *Intersection Map*.

### 2.0 Study Goal and Objectives

A Study Goal and several objectives were developed for this study.

Study Goal: Develop an intersection solution that serves user demands for the next 20+ years to achieve the following objectives:

1. Improve pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicle safety.
2. Reduce delay for all users.
3. Improve intersection design and clarity to satisfy user expectations.