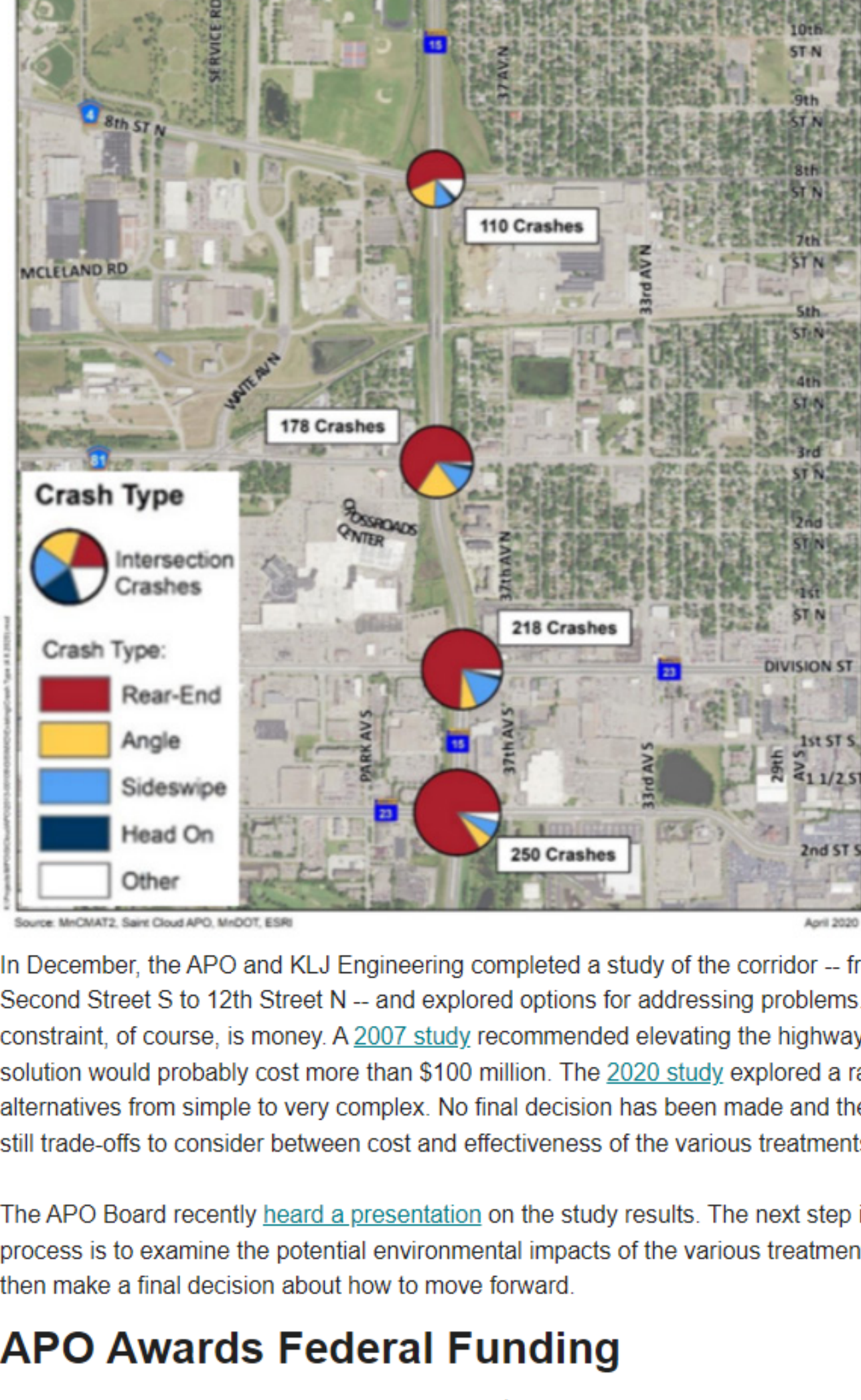




## Changes Possible for Highway 15

Trunk Highway 15 is one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the region. Over 30,000 vehicles use the roadway every day. But all of that traffic – combined with all of the vehicles just trying to get across the highway – creates delays and safety issues.

Figure 15 - Crash Type (2015-2019)



In December, the APO and KLJ Engineering completed a study of the corridor -- from Second Street S to 12th Street N -- and explored options for addressing problems. The big constraint, of course, is money. A [2007 study](#) recommended elevating the highway, but that solution would probably cost more than \$100 million. The [2020 study](#) explored a range of alternatives from simple to very complex. No final decision has been made and there are still trade-offs to consider between cost and effectiveness of the various treatments.

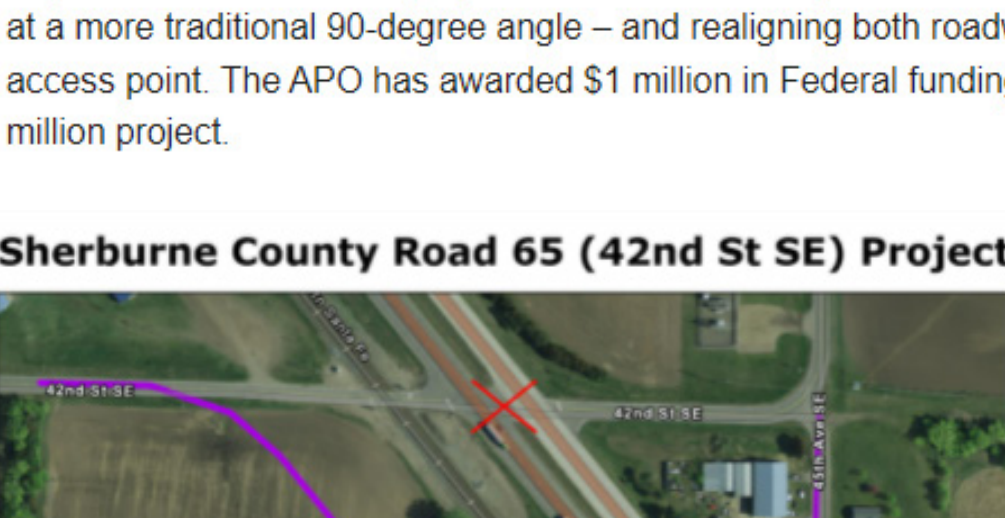
The APO Board recently [heard a presentation](#) on the study results. The next step in the process is to examine the potential environmental impacts of the various treatments and then make a final decision about how to move forward.

## APO Awards Federal Funding

The APO's Policy Board has awarded just over \$2.1 million in Federal funding assistance to two projects within the APO's planning area. At its Feb. 11 meeting, the Policy Board agreed to fund the City of Sauk Rapids' Second Avenue S reconstruction project and Sherburne County's County Road 65 and 45th Avenue realignment project.

The Sauk Rapids project -- totaling an estimated \$1,744,000 -- will reconstruct Second Avenue S from Benton Drive to 10th Street S. Aside from the roadwork, the project will also include sidewalk, lighting, drainage, and water main improvements. The city has received \$1,135,120 in Federal assistance from the APO.

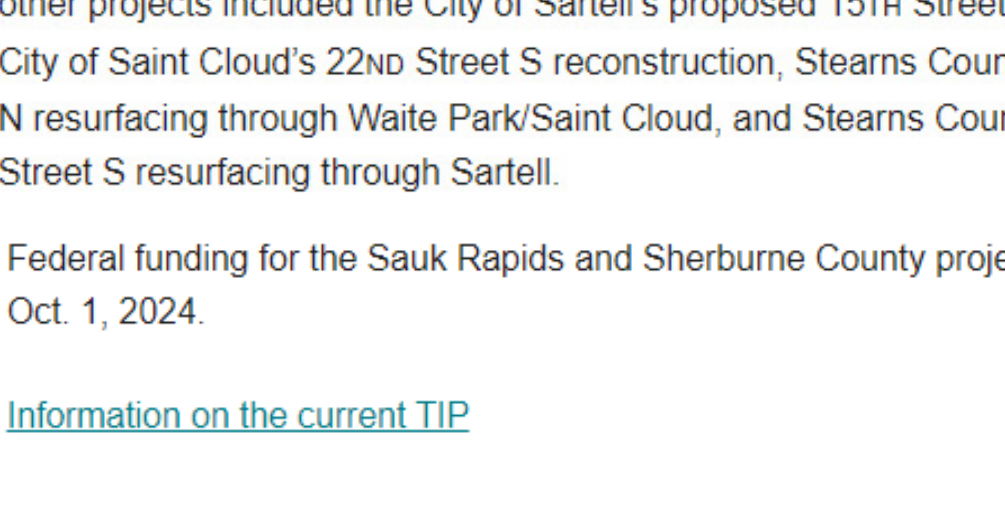
### City of Sauk Rapids 2nd Avenue South Project



Legend: Project Location. Scale: 0 to 0.3 Miles. Date: 03/05/2021.

Sherburne County's project involves closing two access points that cross US 10 and the BNSF railroad. The crossings at County Road 65 and 45th Avenue are both 45-degree angled intersections. This project will include building one new at-grade railroad crossing -- at a more traditional 90-degree angle -- and realigning both roadways to use this new access point. The APO has awarded \$1 million in Federal funding assistance for this \$1.9 million project.

### Sherburne County Road 65 (42nd St SE) Project



Legend: Project Location. Scale: 0 to 0.2 Miles. Date: 03/05/2021.

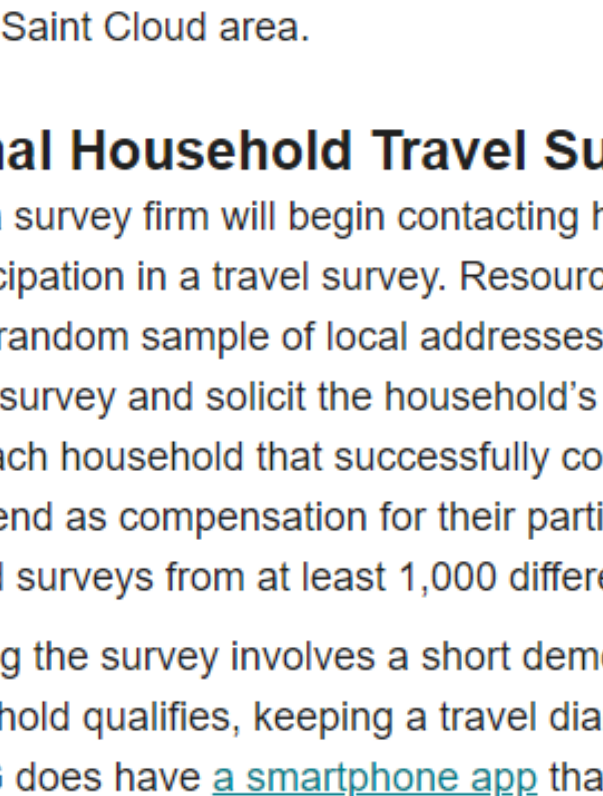
These two projects were selected from a total of six projects from around the region. These other projects included the City of Sartell's proposed 15th Street N corridor extension, the City of Saint Cloud's 22nd Street S reconstruction, Stearns County's CSAH 81/Third Street N resurfacing through Waite Park/Saint Cloud, and Stearns County's CSAH 133/Second Street S resurfacing through Sartell.

Federal funding for the Sauk Rapids and Sherburne County projects will be available on Oct. 1, 2024.

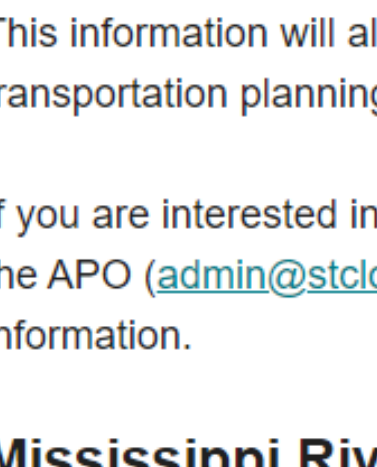
[Information on the current TIP](#)

## Performance Measure Report

If you want to learn more about how well the transportation system in your community is performing, check out our [Transportation Performance Monitoring Report](#). The graphic below shows pavement conditions for major roads in the Saint Cloud metropolitan area.



**COMING UP IN 2021**



One of the key responsibilities of the APO is to develop a regional long-range, multimodal surface transportation plan. Known as the [Metropolitan Transportation Plan \(MTP\)](#), this document -- among other things -- must outline a transportation vision for the future.

Throughout 2021 APO staff will begin a public input and visioning process to hear from the community about your priorities for the future of transportation within the Saint Cloud area.

## Regional Household Travel Survey

This fall, a survey firm will begin contacting households in the region to ask for their participation in a travel survey. Resource Systems Group (RSG), will contact a random sample of local addresses by mail to provide more details about the survey and solicit the household's commitment to completing the survey. Each household that successfully completes the survey will receive a small stipend as compensation for their participation. The APO's goal is to get completed surveys from at least 1,000 different households.

Completing the survey involves a short demographic questionnaire and then, if the household qualifies, keeping a travel diary of all trips over a given period of time. RSG does have a [smartphone app](#) that can automatically track trips, so much of the data could be collected passively. But, there will also be an option to log into a website to manually report trips instead of using the app.

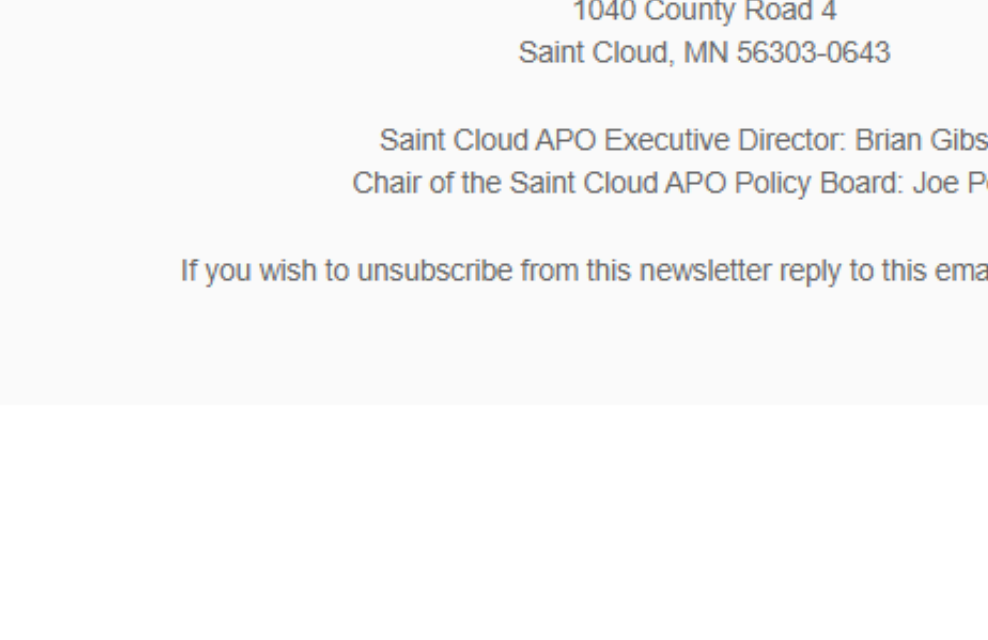
The travel survey will help the APO better understand how people across the region and different demographic groups are meeting their daily travel needs. This information will also be used to assist the APO in its long-range transportation planning efforts.

If you are interested in volunteering to be surveyed, contact Amber Blattner at the APO ([admin@stcloudapo.org](mailto:admin@stcloudapo.org) or 320-252-7568) and provide your contact information.

## Mississippi River Bridge Planning Update

In the 1990s a vision emerged locally to construct a [beltline corridor](#) around the urban area to help improve mobility and to help drivers avoid the dense urban core if they wished. Following the economic recession of 2007/2008, all planning for the beltline stopped as constrained resources were reallocated to maintain the existing roadway network.

Last year, planning for parts of the beltline corridor started anew. The APO contracted with [Stantec](#) to study the possibility of building a roadway connecting the intersection of 33rd Street South and Roosevelt Road in Saint Cloud to US 10, including a new bridge over the Mississippi River.



Stantec has completed a [background report](#) and will soon begin a public input phase in order to hear thoughts from the general public about the concept.

If you would like to be kept informed about this study as it progresses, contact APO Executive Director Brian Gibson ([gibson@stcloudapo.org](mailto:gibson@stcloudapo.org) or 320-252-7568).

**Get Involved with Saint Cloud APO**



**JURISDICTIONS WE SERVE**

- Benton County
- Sherburne County
- Stearns County
- LeSauk Township
- City of Saint Cloud
- City of Saint Joseph
- City of Sartell
- City of Sauk Rapids
- City of Waite Park
- Saint Cloud Metro Bus



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