



Transportation

Roads

Roadways are planned and constructed for differing classifications using established criteria that will meet the current and future access needs of the county.

The existing transportation system in Rice County consists of a combination of transportation modes and a planned network of roadways, from township roads to a regional principal arterial highway (Interstate 35) that bisects Rice County north to south.

CSA *-Municipal	Miles
Bituminous Surface	
Dennison	0.10
Dundas	3.47
Faribault	9.47
Lonsdale	2.44
Morristown	2.71
Nerstrand	0.50
Northfield	3.66
Sub Total Bituminous	22.35
Sub Total Concrete Surface – (Faribault)	0.71
Total CSA Municipal Road Surface	23.06

CSAH ** -Rural	Miles
Bituminous Surface	253.12
Gravel Surface	5.7
Concrete Total	0
Total	258.82

CSA-Municipal & CSAH Rural	Miles
Combined Total	281.88

*CSA: County State Aid

**CSAH: County State Aid Highway

County Roads- Rural	Miles
Bituminous Surface	74.10
Gravel Surface	73.35
Total	147.45

County Roads- Municipal	Miles
Faribault	0.00
Lonsdale	0.64
Northfield	1.30
Total Bituminous Surface	1.94








The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) operates the Interstate and State Trunk Highway systems. Rice County operates the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) and the County Road systems. The remaining roadways are the responsibilities of cities and townships. For the most part, roadways that serve solely local transportation needs are owned and operated by city and township governments. Roadways that serve regional, intra-county, or statewide transportation needs are owned and operated by the state. Rice County road authority in principal assures connections to major activity centers within the county and roads that provide other key links to surrounding local jurisdictions. Currently there are an estimated 431.27 miles of county roads, 495.0 miles of township roads, 182.9 miles of city roads and 126.9 miles of state roads.

Highway and bridge reconstruction and maintenance is funded through State Aid funds allocated to all 87 counties in Minnesota. These funds are based on a variety of factors including:

- Number of lane miles
- Ability to pay (equity based on county taxability)
- Vehicle registrations
- Overall system needs (what it would cost to bring all mileage up to modern rural and urban standards).

Counties in Minnesota are responsible for two types of county roads. The principal difference between the County State Aid Highway and County Road systems rests in the way maintenance and improvements are prescribed and funded.

Major Highways

-  I-35
-  Minnesota State Highway 3
-  Minnesota State Highway 19
-  Minnesota State Highway 21
-  Minnesota State Highway 60
-  Minnesota State Highway 99
-  Minnesota State Highway 246

