



### **Roadtec Equipment Working Around I-35W Bridge Collapse**

In a push to create capacity to handle traffic that normally flows across the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi in Minneapolis, the state of Minnesota let an emergency bid in August, which was awarded on August 15. It covered an additional lane in each direction of I-94 between 35W and Hwy 280 utilizing the shoulder area and included resurfacing, striping, and the reworking of some exits. Motorists are being routed across the river on the Hwy 280 Bridge until the 35W Bridge can be re-opened and the additional lanes are needed to relieve traffic congestion.

The job had to be completed no later than 5:00 pm Monday, August 20 and carried a \$1,000 penalty for every 15 minutes it exceeded that time!

Milling sub contractor Ace Blacktop went to work at midnight on Friday, August 17 in the eastbound lanes with three Roadtec milling machines, an RX-900, RX-60, and RX-68. Stew McKenna, a partner in Ace Blacktop, said that all three machines performed flawlessly, with the RX-900 going 65-70 feet per minute and

the two other models averaging about 50 feet per minute. "It rained but we knew we had to get the job done," he said. "We had no equipment problems whatsoever from those Roadtec mills. Just put fuel in and went at it." In fact at 10:00 am Saturday the paving contractor who was running different brand milling equipment in the westbound lanes asked for one of the Roadtec machines to come over and help on that side so they could stay caught up. By Saturday evening the milling work was completed. Approximately 110,000 square yards of material had been milled up and hauled off by the Roadtec machines. The three mills kept 55 trucks busy throughout.

"The Roadtec machines really came through for us," Stew McKenna added. "With that sort of penalty, you can't afford a hick-up. We knew we had to put our best machines on it."