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**COUNTY**  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Gibson Sent to Prison for Distracted Driving**

Chad Michael Gibson, 43, of St. Paul was sentenced to 105 months in prison today for causing a crash on I-35 near Minnesota Highway 60 in Faribault. On August 13, 2016, Gibson was driving a Chevy Avalanche and headed South on I-35 on his way to Owatonna. North of Faribault he entered a construction zone and passed signs on each side of the road warning of road construction and possible slowdowns ahead.

Forensic evidence showed that Gibson had his cruise control set at 78 when he crashed into the back of a Kia Sorrento. The driver of the Kia was killed and the passenger seriously injured. Gibson did not brake or swerve to avoid the crash, he told a trooper he was looking for a Mountain Dew at the time.

Gibson pled guilty to Criminal Vehicular Homicide in 2018 and was given a stayed sentence. The Minnesota Court of Appeals reversed the district court's determination that probation was appropriate and ordered Gibson to be re-sentenced in April. In the meantime, Gibson was found to be in violation of his conditions of probation and admitted on May 30, 2019 that he had violated the conditions of his probation.

Today the court imposed the 105 month sentence for Criminal Vehicular Homicide it had originally stayed and a 43 month concurrent sentence for Criminal Vehicular Operation for the injuries caused to the passenger.

"This sentence appropriately reflects the harm to community caused by Mr. Gibson, and the seriousness of this offense," Rice County Attorney John Fossum said. Fossum prosecuted the case. This was the maximum sentence under the sentencing guidelines available for Gibson.

#### **CONTACTS:**

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