

March 18, 2024

Congressman Tom Emmer
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Stearns County's Community Project Funding Request

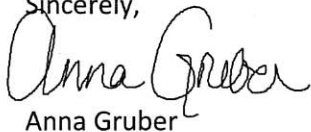
Dear Congressman Emmer:

The city of Sartell strongly supports Stearns County's request for Community Project Funding on behalf of LeSauk, Brockway and St. Wendel townships for proposed improvements to Town Line Road (also known as 30th Avenue and 75th Avenue). The existing roadway is narrow and unsafe, and badly needs significant improvements. The three townships with authority over this road have limited resources to carry out the costly improvements that need to be made along Town Line Road while still adequately maintaining other roads under their jurisdiction.

The city of Sartell has only two main north-south thoroughfares through the city. Town Line Road is used by many drivers as a route to bypass the oftentimes congested Pine Cone Road and River Road (County Road 1) in Sartell to access Sartell-St. Stephen schools on the north side of the city. It also connects residents of St. Stephen to the schools. The proposed paved six-foot shoulders will also provide a safe area for non-motorized traffic within road right of way. Even though Sartell only owns one parcel along the road, the city is contributing to the project costs and engineering because it recognizes the importance of upgrading the road for the entire region.

I appreciate you considering the county's funding application. The county has agreed to act as a project facilitator for the townships involved and will keep this project moving to completion. Please feel free to contact me at anna.gruber@sartellmn.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Gruber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Anna Gruber
Sartell City Administrator

March 20, 2024

Congressmember Tom Emmer
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Townline Road

Dear Congressman Emmer:

I offer this letter in support of Stearns County's request for funding for Townline Road.

Townline Road is an "old country road" that is being increasingly asked to function as an urban arterial. The design is substandard, the pavement continues to deteriorate, and there are increasing safety concerns. The roadway desperately needs to be rebuilt.

However, because ownership of the corridor is split between multiple townships, no single jurisdiction has the resources or authority to complete the entire project. Further, the roadway does not qualify for USDOT funds because it is classified as a rural minor collector. The project was recently awarded state funds, but there is still a funding shortage, and closing that funding gap is critical to the project moving forward.

The APO Policy Board regularly discusses our biggest regional transportation needs, and Townline Road is always a topic of conversation. Everyone recognizes the importance of the corridor, both now and for the future.

I appreciate your consideration of Townline Road for potential funding.

Sincerely,



Brian Gibson
Executive Director