

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARVER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Date: March 21, 2023

Resolution No: 24-23

Motion by Commissioner: Lynch

Seconded by Commissioner: Degler

**Resolution of Support and Approval for Submittal of Community Project Funding
and Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives (House) Committee on Appropriations announced that Community Project Funding (CPF) requests will be considered in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 cycle; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate (Senate) Appropriations Committee is accepting requests from Senators for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for the FY 2024 appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, House and Senate Members requested local agencies to submit eligible projects for consideration; and

WHEREAS, project requests that advance the goals of specified funding accounts will be considered including for the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development – Highway Infrastructure Programs account; and

WHEREAS, the County identified two priority projects for FY 2024 CFP and CDS funding requests under the Highway Infrastructure Programs account:

1. Highway 5 Arboretum Area Mobility Project
2. US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project

WHEREAS, Highway 5 serves a major east-west connection between Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria, Waconia, and Norwood Young America for both regional commuter and freight traffic and also provides primary access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 visitors per year; and

WHEREAS, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway creating significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average; and

WHEREAS, completing the proposed project on Highway 5 to a 4-lane divided highway will provide improved safety, mobility, community connectivity, environmental sustainability, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, US Highway 212 is part of the National Highway System and identified by MnDOT as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor. The planned project expands the highway from a two-lane rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway between Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) and Cologne (County Highway 36); and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements on US Highway 212 will remove barriers to efficient freight movement and job opportunities, support economic vitality by providing development opportunities at key locations, preserve and remedy existing infrastructure, and improve mobility and safety for all corridor users; and

WHEREAS, the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and the Highway 5 Arboretum Area Mobility Project meet the eligibility guidance for consideration of CPF and CDS funding requests; and

WHEREAS, Carver County will provide funding towards the local match and partner with MnDOT to contribute to the overall local match and project funding as identified in the project request information for both projects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carver County Board of Commissioners supports and approves submittal of the Highway 5 Arboretum Area Mobility Project and the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of Community Project Funding and Congressional Directed Funding requests for corridor improvements that will benefit the safe and efficient travel for all users through the project corridors, Carver County, and the region, and directs the Carver County Engineer to submit requested project information.

Yes	No	Absent
_____	_____	_____
Degler		
_____	_____	_____
Fahey		
_____	_____	_____
Lynch		
_____	_____	_____
	Udermann	
_____	_____	_____
		Workman
_____	_____	_____

STATE OF MINNESOTA
 COUNTY OF CARVER

I, Dave Hemze, duly appointed and qualified County Administrator of the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Carver County, Minnesota, at its session held on the 21st day of March, 2023, now on file in the Administration office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Dated this 21st day of March 2023.



Dave Hemze (Mar 21, 2023 15:36 CDT)
 Dave Hemze, County Administrator



CITY OF CHANHASSEN

Chanhassen is a Community for Life - Providing for Today and Planning for Tomorrow

March 22, 2023

Congressman Tom Emmer
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Highway 5 Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman Emmer:

On behalf of the City of Chanhassen, I extend support for the Highway 5 Community Project Funding Request that will address a remaining two-lane gap segment plagued with congestion and crashes (387 – 1 fatal crash – in ten years), backups exceeding two miles during peak travel times and stressful and dangerous crossings for vulnerable users. Highway 5 carries 27,000 vehicles through the project area—including 800 heavy commercial vehicles—per day, serving a demand 50 percent above the threshold of a two-lane section. The improvements will result in a 51% crash reduction, can accommodate up to 50,000 vehicles per day and a 56 percent delay reduction even considering the projected traffic growth by 2040. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Landscape Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multimodal access to these regional destinations.

The City of Chanhassen recognizes the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is investing over \$100M in redevelopment that will result in forty new jobs and 700,000 annual visitors. Chanhassen just completed a \$6M rehabilitation project for a connecting local collector street (Minnewashta Pkwy) and is currently designing a \$10M reconstruction project of a County Road turnback, both of which are direct feeders to Highway 5. These investments rely on the improvements for Highway 5.

Over the last three years the project partners have been hard at work developing a shared vision to improve safety and mobility for all. We are united and bring forth this project that has been developed by the community through strong engagement and partnerships.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Howley, PE, LEED AP
Public Works Director/City Engineer

CITY OF VICTORIA

Victoria, MN  Est. 1915

March 22, 2023

Congressman Tom Emmer
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Highway 5 Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman Emmer:

The proposed Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Today, Highway 5 is plagued with high numbers and severity of crashes (387 – 1 fatal crash – in ten years), backups exceeding two miles during peak travel times and stressful and dangerous crossings for vulnerable users. Highway 5 carries 27,000 vehicles through the project area—including 800 heavy commercial vehicles—per day, serving a demand 50 percent above the threshold of a two-lane section. The improvements will result in a 51% crash reduction, can accommodate up to 50,000 vehicles per day and a 56 percent delay reduction even considering the projected traffic growth by 2040.

The City of Victoria recognizes and understands the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. The extreme congestion and high crash rates along Highway 5 currently create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities metro. Attracting growth and businesses to our community depends on a reliable transportation system. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multi modal access to these regional destinations.

The City of Victoria supports Carver County's Community Project Funding request for Highway 5 improvements. For more than three years, we have worked with Carver County, MnDOT, and other local municipalities to identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area, including Highway 5.

Sincerely,



Debra McMillan
Mayor

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Crookston • Duluth • Morris • Rochester • Twin Cities

*Planning, Space, and Real Estate
University Services*

451 Donhowe Building
319 15th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Office: 612-625-5345

March 22, 2023

Congressman Tom Emmer
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Highway 5 Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman Emmer:

This letter serves to express the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's support for the Highway 5 Community Project Funding Request.

The Highway 5 project aligns with the MN Landscape Arboretum's long-term vision and immediate need to provide safe and reliable access to this regional and national destination for 500,000 people annually with anticipated visitor growth. Planned Highway 5 improvements will reduce the existing number of vehicle crashes by 51% and accommodate almost double the number of vehicles per day (currently 27,000 as compared to projected 50,000 vehicles). Planned Highway 5 improvements will reduce traffic delays in this corridor by 56%, despite Carver County population growth projections of more than 50% by 2040.

The proposed project will increase safety, connect regional trail gaps for pedestrians and bicyclists, and increase access to service and recreational areas in the region. The proposed bridge will reconnect Lake Minnewashta for improved stormwater management, wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum support the Highway 5 Community Project Funding Request. We look forward to continued partnership with Carver County as the Highway 5 project design proceeds.

Sincerely,



Monique MacKenzie
Director of Campus Planning, University of Minnesota



Peter Moe
Director, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Cc: Myron Frans, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations
Brian Buhr, Dean, CFANS
Janelle Broesch, Interim Vice President for University Services
Leslie Krueger, Assistant Vice President for Planning, Space, and Real Estate

February 20, 2023

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

As the region's metropolitan planning organization, the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities region is pleased to support Carver County's Highway 5 arboretum area mobility project for consideration under the US Department of Transportation (DOT) RAISE grant program. The project will address a remaining two-lane segment of Trunk Highway 5 which experiences significant congestion and safety issues between the cities of Victoria and Chanhassen.

Highway 5 is an important corridor for commuters, freight movement, and recreational travelers. The corridor currently carries 27,000 vehicles per day including 800 heavy vehicles with a two-lane section. Severe congestion frequently creates queues nearly two miles long and reduces traffic speeds nearly 40 percent. Due to the congestion and lack of acceptable gaps in traffic, many drivers making turning movements accept smaller gaps increasing the safety concerns along the corridor. Between 2014 and 2018, there were 187 crashes on the corridor, which is 2.5 times higher than the state average for similar roadways.

This project aligns with the regional goals and priorities of the current Transportation Policy Plan and the project was developed in partnership with all impacted agencies. The project also secured a \$10 million grant through the region's federal funding process known as Regional Solicitation. Further, the Metropolitan Council is committed to amending the Transportation Improvement Program and long-range transportation plan, as needed, to include this project. The Metropolitan Council is in full support of Carver County's RAISE grant application, and we look forward to working with the county and all other project partners.

Sincerely,


Charles Carlson (Jan 31, 2023 14:15 CST)

Charles Carlson
Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director
Metropolitan Council



395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is in reference to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant application for the Highway 5 Arboretum Area Mobility Project in Carver County. This project is a locally led project on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Trunk Highway System. The project will expand Trunk Highway 5 to a four-lane, divided expressway from a two-lane, rural roadway between the Cities of Victoria and Chanhassen. This project will eliminate the two-lane gap along this highly traveled segment of TH 5 that experiences significant congestion, mobility limitations and higher-than-average crash rates. This segment of TH 5 also serves as sole access to the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a national tourist destination with over 500,000 annual visitors. The project will enhance mobility and safety for all users through intersection improvements, including the construction of a new roundabout, intersection reconstruction and expansion at several locations and new and upgraded traffic signals. Other safety and mobility improvements include the construction of a new bridge over Lake Minnewashta, to reconnect and restore the lake and wetlands and new pedestrian underpasses in several locations, to connect a regional route and other existing regional trails.

Currently, the total project cost estimate is \$117 million. Carver County has been awarded \$10 million from the 2020 Metropolitan Council's Regional Solicitation, and MnDOT has committed up to \$5.8 million toward the project. MnDOT currently has this project included in the MnDOT Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). It is MnDOT's assumption at this time that the local agency will be responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps beyond the MnDOT commitment. This project is planned for construction in 2025.

MnDOT looks forward to continued cooperation with Carver County as this effort moves forward to improve this transportation need.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Angie Stenson, Transportation Planning Manager, Carver County
Michael Barnes, District Engineer, MnDOT

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