



City of Blaine

10801 Town Square Drive NE

Blaine MN 55449-8100

City Hall 763-784-6700 | BlaineMN.gov

Letters of Support

Minnesota Trunk Highway 65 at 117th Avenue – Grades Separated Intersection Project

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City of Blaine

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City Hall 763-784-6700 | BlaineMN.gov

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Tom Emmer
United States House of Representatives
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Letter of Support for Congressional Interest for Community Project Funding in FY 2024

Dear Representative Emmer:

The City of Blaine seeks your support for our request for \$4 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for the City's Trunk Highway 65 Improvements Project at 117th Avenue. This project will construct a grade separated intersection to improve the flow of traffic, expand access for multiple modes of transportation, and improve safety for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians traveling along or across this segment of the TH65 corridor.

Minnesota TH65 is a vital link between the Twin Cities urban core and north metro communities. Increased business development and increases in population along the TH65 corridor have led to more congestion and more fatal and severe vehicle accidents. Congestion is expected to nearly double during peak hour travel times in the coming years and fatal and severe injury crash rates on segments of TH65 are eight times higher than the state average. Planned improvements at 117th Avenue will help address these capacity and safety issues along the corridor.

The project will also better connect residents and businesses on opposite sides of TH65, resulting in a more cohesive community. The current TH65 corridor configuration creates a significant barrier within our community, dividing our residents living on the west side from the goods, services, and employment on the east side. It has been a constant impediment for public safety such as Police, Fire, and Ambulance services to quickly respond as needed through our community.

This is not just a City of Blaine issue; this is a regional issue. An investment in our TH65 at 117th Avenue project is an investment in the region's goals to advance commerce and better connect people to the places they need to go by addressing capacity, access, mobility, and safety issues.

We would greatly appreciate your support for our Congressionally Directed Spending request, and we thank you for all of your continued hard work on our TH65 improvement projects, and your dedication on our behalf in Washington.

Sincerely,

Tim Sanders, Mayor
City of Blaine, MN



Blaine Police Department

10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine MN 55449-8100
Main 763-785-6168 | BlaineMN.gov

March 10, 2023

Mr. Dan Schluender
City Engineer
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Re: Letter of Support for TH65 Improvements at 117th Avenue

We would like to express our strong support for the City of Blaine's Trunk Highway 65 Improvements Project at 117th Avenue. This project will construct a grade separated intersection to improve the flow of traffic, expand access for multiple modes of transportation, and improve safety for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians traveling along or across this segment of the Highway 65 corridor.

From a safety standpoint, we depend upon this vital transportation corridor to reach our businesses, residents, and visitors in a timely manner when emergency services are called upon.

We also recognize the regional significance of this highway for the efficient movement of people and commerce in and out of the region. Congestion and safety issues on Highway 65 are a north metro region concern as well as a statewide concern.

The City of Blaine has my full support in securing the necessary funding for the 117th Avenue project. The City and its partners have made significant progress in moving Highway 65 projects forward towards construction. Completion will require continued support from Federal, State, and local government to deliver improvements to this intersection and other planned projects along this corridor. Those improvements will help address safety, reliability, access, multimodal mobility, and congestion issues.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the City of Blaine. If you have any questions, please contact me at (email address).

Sincerely,

Brian Podany
Safety Services Director/Chief of Police
City of Blaine Police Department



Spring Lake Park – Blaine – Mounds View Fire Department

www.SBMFIRE.ORG

Administrative Headquarters

Station One

1710 County Highway 10 NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
763-786-4436 • 763-786-9617 Fax

Training Facility

Station Three

11920 Ulysses Street
Blaine, MN 55434
763-767-4003 • 763-767-4001 Fax

March 10, 2023

Mr. Dan Schluender
City Engineer
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Re: Letter of Support for TH65 Improvements at 117th Avenue

We would like to express our strong support for the City of Blaine's Trunk Highway 65 Improvements Project at 117th Avenue. This project will construct a grade separated intersection to improve the flow of traffic, expand access for multiple modes of transportation, and improve safety for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians traveling along or across this segment of the Highway 65 corridor.

As a vested member of this community, we depend upon this vital transportation corridor to support our businesses, residents, and visitors. With the increase in traffic on Trunk Highway 65 travel has become not only slow and inconvenient, but it has also become a significant public safety issue. As the Fire Chief of the SBM Fire Department which serves the cities of Spring Lake Park, Blaine, and Mounds View, I have seen firsthand the increase in tragic accidents that have occurred on Trunk Highway 65.

The SBM Fire Department supports the City of Blaine securing the necessary funding for the 117th Avenue project. The city and its partners have made significant progress in moving Highway 65 projects forward towards construction. Completion will require continued support from Federal, State, and local government to deliver improvements to this intersection and other planned projects along this corridor. Those improvements will help address safety, reliability, access, multimodal mobility, and congestion issues.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the City of Blaine. If you have any questions, please contact me at dretka@sbmfire.org

Sincerely,

Dan Retka
Fire Chief
SBM Fire Department



Office of the Sheriff

ANOKA COUNTY
SHERIFF BRAD WISE

March 10, 2023

City Engineer Dan Schluender
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Re: Letter of Support for TH65 Improvements at 117th Avenue

Dear Mr. Schluender:

I am writing to support the City of Blaine's Trunk Highway 65 Improvements Project at 117th Avenue. This project will construct a grade separated intersection to improve the flow of traffic, expand access for multiple modes of transportation, and improve safety for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians traveling along or across this segment of the Highway 65 corridor.

As one of the emergency responders of this community, we depend upon this vital transportation corridor to support traffic safety for our residents, visitors, and businesses. We also recognize the regional significance of this highway for the efficient movement of people and commerce in and out of the region. Congestion and safety issues on Highway 65 are a north metro region concern as well as a statewide concern.

The Sheriff's Office provides countywide services and law enforcement services to seven cities and one township in northern Anoka County. Highway 65 is a main thoroughfare for commuters and emergency personnel to respond to 911 calls that include crashes, traffic backups, road rage altercations, auto thefts, and other criminal activity. In addition to the incidents that occur on Highway 65, the problems associated with TH65 create delays in response time for emergency response countywide. The improvements will assist first responders with the ability to arrive in a timely manner to protect victims, other responding personnel, and commuters.

The city and its partners have made significant progress in moving Highway 65 projects forward towards construction. Completion will require continued support from Federal, State, and local government to deliver improvements to this intersection and other planned projects along this corridor. Those improvements will help address safety, reliability, access, multimodal mobility, and congestion issues.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Brad Wise



Anoka County

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

Highway

March 9, 2023

Mr. Dan Schluender
City Engineer
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

RE: Trunk Highway 65 Improvements at 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive – Blaine, MN
2023 Congressionally Directed Spending Funding Application

Dear Mr. Schluender:

Anoka County strongly supports the City of Blaine's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding request for improvements at the intersection of Trunk Highway 65 (TH 65) and 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive.

The project is being led by the City of Blaine, with coordinated support from Anoka County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Metropolitan Council Regional Planning Agency, and North Trunk Highway 65 Corridor Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of two additional north metro counties and more than a dozen cities and townships, all of whom depend upon TH 65 for economic development, daily life activities, and connection to the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area. The proposed project is a result of a comprehensive Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, which includes a robust public engagement process and early evaluation of social, economic, and environmental impacts, as well as a transparent alternative analysis matrix.

The proposed improvements at this intersection will improve motorized traffic flow, decrease average travel times, reduce delays, and reduce crash frequencies. The proposed project will enhance mobility, safety, and connectivity, enabling pedestrians, bicyclists, commuters, freight haulers, emergency responders, and local traffic to access destinations conveniently and safely, along both sides of the corridor.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (763) 324-3199, or via email at joe.macpherson@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. MacPherson, P.E.
Transportation Division Manager/County Engineer

Our Passion Is Your Safe Way Home

1440 Bunker Lake Boulevard N.W. ▲ Andover, MN 55304-4005
Office: 763-324-3100 ▲ Fax: 763-324-3020 ▲ www.anokacounty.us/highway

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer



March 9, 2022

Mr. Dan Schluender
City Engineer
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

RE: Regional Support for Trunk Highway 65 Improvements at 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive in Blaine, MN

Dear Mr. Schluender:

The North Metro Mayors Association (NMMA) is an advocate for capacity and safety improvements along Trunk Highway 65 in Blaine. We support the City of Blaine's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding request for improvements at the intersection of Trunk Highway 65 (TH 65) and 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive in Blaine, Minnesota.

Representing cities with a combined population of more than 450,000 Minnesota residents, NMMA is a collaboration of 15 north metro cities plus community partners working together to encourage private and public investments in the northern suburbs. NMMA member cities include Andover, Anoka, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Dayton, Fridley, Maple Grove, Mounds View, New Brighton, New Hope, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park.

NMMA member cities recognize the regional significance of Trunk Highway 65 and importance of efficient movement of people and commerce in and out of the north metro region via TH 65. Securing CDS funding for improvements for 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive is part of NMMA's vision for improving the efficiency and safety of Trunk Highway 65 and drastically improving its performance as a regional corridor.

Communities in the north metro compete daily to attract employers, workforce talent, transportation funding, and other limited resources to their cities. It is incredibly significant that NMMA member cities have unified their support for the City of Blaine's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding request to address the congestion and safety issues on Highway 65. We recognize how funding Highway 65 construction projects will benefit the entire region.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dave Bartholomay
City of Circle Pines
NMMA President

Mayor Ryan Sabas
City of Champlin
NMMA Vice-President



March 9, 2023

Mr. Dan Schluender
City Engineer
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

RE: Trunk Highway 65 Improvements at 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive – Blaine, MN
2023 Congressionally Directed Spending Funding Application

Dear Mr. Schluender:

On behalf of the North Trunk Highway 65 Corridor Coalition, it is my privilege to respectfully submit this letter of support for the City of Blaine's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding request for improvements at the intersection of Trunk Highway 65 (TH 65) and 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive.

The proposed project, led by the City of Blaine and support coordinated from Anoka County, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Metropolitan Council Regional Planning Agency, and North Trunk Highway 65 Corridor Coalition, is a result of a comprehensive Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The PEL Study included a robust public engagement process and early evaluation of social, economic, and environmental impacts, as well as a transparent alternative analysis matrix.

The North Trunk Highway 65 Coalition is comprised of two additional north metro counties and more than a dozen cities and townships, all of whom depend upon TH 65 for economic development, daily life activities, and connection to the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area.

The proposed improvements at this intersection will reduce crash frequencies and fatalities, decrease delays and average travel times, and improve motorized traffic flow. The proposed project also will enhance safety, mobility, and regional connectivity, enabling pedestrians, bicyclists, emergency responders, commuters, freight haulers, and local traffic to access destinations conveniently and safely, along both sides of the corridor.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (763) 324-4708, or via email at Julie.Jeppson@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Julie Jeppson
Anoka County Commissioner/Coalition Member

METRONORTH

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 10, 2023

Mr. Dan Schluender
City Engineer
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Re: Letter of Support for TH65 Improvements at 117th Avenue

Dear Mr. Schluender:

As the President of the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Blaine's Trunk Highway 65 Improvements Project at 117th Avenue. This project will construct a grade separated intersection to improve the flow of traffic, expand access for multiple modes of transportation, and improve safety for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians traveling along or across this segment of the Highway 65 corridor.

The MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce is a regional organization, representing over 700 businesses and community organizations throughout the north metro – including the city of Blaine and many of its employers. And, as you may know, Blaine is also the city in which our office resides, and we are daily users of this corridor.

The chamber's mission is to strengthen the business community, and a safe and effective transportation system is vital to that success. The Hwy 65/117th Avenue intersection project will amplify the efficient movement of commerce and passengers through the north metro region and further enhance Minnesota's statewide transportation system. As you know, TH 65 serves as a major route of choice for commerce, commuters, and economic development in the growing north metro. Addressing the congestion and safety issues on this highway is a critical regional necessity.

The MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce supports the City of Blaine securing the necessary funding for the 117th Avenue project. The City and its partners have made significant progress in moving Highway 65 projects forward towards construction. Completion will require continued support from Federal, State, and local government to deliver improvements to this intersection and other planned projects along this corridor. Those improvements will help address safety, reliability, access, multimodal mobility, and congestion issues.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the City of Blaine. If you have any questions, please contact me at lori@metronorthchamber.org.

Respectfully,

Lori Higgins

Lori Higgins, President



City Engineer
City of Blaine
10801 Town of Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Re: Letter of Support for TH65 Improvements at 117th Avenue

We would like to express our strong support for the City of Blaine's Trunk Highway 65 Improvements Project at 117th Avenue. This project will construct a grade separated intersection to improve the flow of traffic, expand access for multiple modes of transportation, and improve safety for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians traveling along or across this segment of the Highway 65 corridor.

As a vested member of this community, we depend upon this vital transportation corridor to support our businesses, residents, and visitors. As the states most visited sports facility, the National Sports Center (NSC) attracts over 4.1 million visitors annually to the campus. It is imperative that the transportation systems provide safe and efficient movement for the international, national and local participants.

We also recognize the regional significance of this highway for the efficient movement of people and commerce in and out of the region. Congestion and safety issues on Highway 65 are a north metro region concern as well as a statewide concern.

The National Sports Center supports the City of Blaine securing the necessary funding for the 117th Avenue project. The City, and its partners have made significant progress in moving Highway 65 projects forward towards construction. Completion will require continued support from Federal, State, and local government to deliver improvements to this intersection and other planned projects along this corridor. Those improvements will help address safety, reliability, access, multimodal mobility, and congestion issues.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the City of Blaine. If you have any questions, please contact me at nladd@nscsports.org.

Sincerely,

Neil Ladd
Deputy Executive Director
National Sports Center