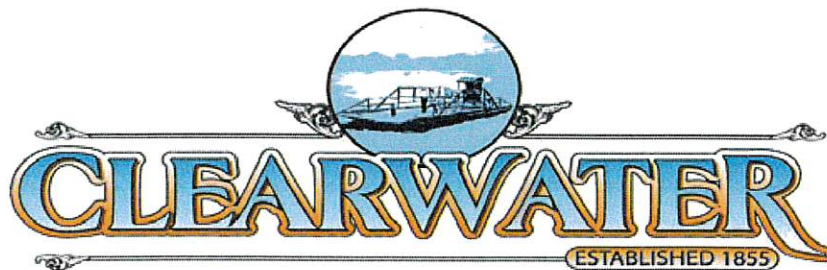


Attachments - Letters of Support, Project Location Maps, Funding Commitments, & Alternatives Analysis Study



Senator Bruce Anderson
Senate District 29
2209 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
Phone: (651) 296-5981
sen.bruce.anderson@senate.mn



Senate
State of Minnesota

March 20, 2023

Annita Smythe
City Administrator
605 County Rd 75 NW
Clearwater, MN 55320

RE: Support for the City of Clearwater's Pursuit of Congressionally Directed Spending for Trunk Highway 24 Improvements

To Ms. Smythe, City Administrator:

I write to voice strong support for the City of Clearwater's request of congressionally directed spending for engineering and right-of-way acquisition as part of the reconstruction of Trunk Highway 24 near the Interstate 94 intersection.

The 29th State Senate District is a key agricultural producer for the state economy. Trunk Highway 24 is an important freight transportation corridor for agricultural goods, as it connects the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with the City of St. Cloud, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Supporting agricultural producers is one of my main priorities in the state senate, and ensuring this corridor remains in a state of good repair is important in maintaining that priority.

The City of Clearwater is a fast-growing community in Minnesota's 29th State Senate District. The population of Clearwater has grown more than sixfold since 1970, and numbers are expected to double again by 2040. More than seventy percent of residents travel using personal vehicles to their jobs, most of which are located outside of the city limits of Clearwater. Increased traffic volumes along the TH 24 corridor, particularly near the intersection of Interstate 94, necessitate improvements to increase efficiency and user safety.

The safety of residents is of paramount importance. This project would remove several left-turn access points and replace them with low conflict roundabouts. In addition, a 10-foot mixed-use trail would be added along the south side of TH 24. The addition of both the trail and reduced conflict intersections will improve safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Moreover, the trail will improve connectivity to downtown Clearwater for bicyclists and pedestrians.

In recent years, the City of Clearwater has seen an increased need to address infrastructure and transportation updates and maintenance in this area. The City of Clearwater is working with

partners at differing levels to ensure this corridor remains in a state of good repair. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has planned to update the TH 24 bridge over Interstate 94 in 2026. This funding would allow the City of Clearwater to finalize the project design and acquire the right-of-way necessary to implement updates to the Trunk Highway 24 corridor near the intersection of Interstate Highway 94.

In summation, this funding would help to address multiple issues concerning transportation, infrastructure, safety, and development across the City of Clearwater. I encourage you to prioritize this important project for the City of Clearwater and all residents of Minnesota's 29th State Senate District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Anderson", written in a cursive style.

Bruce Anderson
District 29

Joe McDonald
State Representative
District 29A
Hennepin and Wright Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

March 13, 2023

Annita Smythe
City Administrator
605 County Rd 75 NW
Clearwater, MN 55320

RE: Support for the City of Clearwater's Pursuit of Congressionally Directed Spending for Trunk Highway 24 Improvements

To Ms. Smythe, City Administrator:

I write to voice strong support for the City of Clearwater's request of congressionally directed spending for engineering and right-of-way acquisition as part of the reconstruction of Trunk Highway 24 near the Interstate 94 intersection.

The City of Clearwater is a fast-growing community in Minnesota State Congressional District 029A. The population of Clearwater has increased by over six times since 1970, and numbers are expected to sharply increase by 2040. Over seventy percent of residents travel to their jobs using personal vehicles. Most of these jobs are located outside of the city limits of Clearwater. This population growth has led to increased traffic volumes along the TH 24 corridor, especially near the intersection of Interstate 94. Due to these higher traffic volumes, improvements are necessary to increase safety and efficiency.

Safety along TH 24 is a major concern. Currently, there are several left turn access points that create a dangerous for both motorists and pedestrians. With this project, these access points would be removed to increase safety. Low conflict intersections like roundabouts would be implemented as well as a 10-foot mixed use trail along the south side of the highway, making the area safer for all users. Furthermore, pedestrians and bicyclists would have a safe way to access downtown Clearwater that is separate from motorized traffic.

State Congressional District 029A is a key district for agricultural production and transport in the state of Minnesota. Trunk Highway 24 is a crucial freight transportation corridor for agricultural goods, as it connects the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with the City of St. Cloud, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Supporting agricultural producers is one of my main priorities as a representative of the residents of District 029A, and ensuring this corridor remains in a state of good repair is important in ensuring agricultural goods are moved quickly and safely.

In recent years, the City of Clearwater has seen an increased need to address infrastructure and transportation updates and maintenance in this area. This funding would allow the City of



Clearwater to finalize the project design and acquire the right-of-way necessary to implement the improvements detailed in the TH 24 Corridor Traffic Modeling/Geometric Layout Options Traffic Conditions Analysis Report completed in December 2022.

The City of Clearwater is working with partners at all levels to ensure this corridor remains efficient, safe, and functional. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has planned to update the TH 24 bridge over Interstate 94 in 2026. This federal funding would help address key issues concerning transportation, infrastructure, safety, and development across the City of Clearwater and Minnesota Congressional District 029A. I encourage you to prioritize this important project for the City of Clearwater and all residents of Congressional District 029A.

Sincerely,



Joe McDonald
Minnesota House of Representatives
District 29A



April 5, 2023

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

Re: Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Application from the City of Clearwater
for Minnesota Trunk Highway 24

Dear Representative Emmer,

This letter is in reference to an infrastructure need for the City of Clearwater for a diverging diamond interchange and corridor reconfiguration project from County Road 7 south of Clearwater to the Mississippi River in Wright County. This project will ensure the corridor and diverging diamond interchange provide optimal safety and traffic flow for Trunk Highway 24 and safe pedestrian movements throughout the corridor.

Currently, the total project cost estimate is \$38.4 million to reconfigure the corridor from County Road 7 to the Mississippi River. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has secured \$8.7 million through Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act bridge funds and \$2 million through the MnDOT District 3 state road construction program to reconstruct the bridge over I-94 and convert the interchange to a diverging diamond configuration. This work will be programmed in Fiscal Year 2026, once the new 2024-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is released.

MnDOT does not have the corridor project fully funded in the STIP nor funding identified for the work needed beyond the interchange and bridge in MnDOT's 10-year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) at this time. The full corridor build project funding is not secured. If grant funding for Trunk Highway 24 is awarded and supported by the Metropolitan Council, MnDOT will add it to the STIP once it is fully funded. MnDOT will also coordinate with the City of Clearwater to implement the project.

MnDOT is committed to partnering and continued cooperation with the City of Clearwater and Wright County, as we develop this project and explore other funding opportunities 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: Annita Smythe, City Administrator, City of Clearwater
Sergius Phillips, Federal Liaison, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Angie Tomovic, District State Aid Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Mike Ginnaty, District 3 Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Equal Opportunity Employer



March 21, 2023

RE: Support for the City of Clearwater's Pursuit of Federal Earmark Funding for Trunk Highway 24 Improvements

Dear Congressman Emmer,

I am writing on behalf of the Clearwater City Council to share their support for the City of Clearwater's request of congressionally directed spending for engineering and right-of-way acquisition as part of the reconstruction of Trunk Highway 24 near the Interstate 94 intersection.

Receiving congressionally directed spending would assist the City of Clearwater in making needed improvements to the Trunk Highway 24 corridor. In recent years, the city has noted an increased need to address infrastructure and transportation projects in this area. This funding would allow the City of Clearwater to finalize the project design and acquire the right-of-way necessary to implement the improvements detailed in the TH 24 Corridor Traffic Modeling/Geometric Layout Options Traffic Conditions Analysis Report completed in December 2022.

The City of Clearwater, located in Wright and Stearns Counties, is a fast-growing city whose population has increased more than six times over since 1970. The population is again expected to double by 2040. To support the growing population and economy in this area, infrastructure must be able to handle increased traffic volumes.

Trunk Highway 24 through Clearwater serves as a key agricultural freight corridor for the state of Minnesota, connecting the Twin Cities Metro Area to the St. Cloud Metropolitan Area and greater Minnesota as well as both North and South Dakota by way of Interstate 94. There are several overnight truck parking areas, making it crucial to keep this freight corridor in a state of good repair to prevent congestion and keep goods moving efficiently.

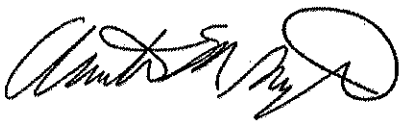
Trunk Highway 24 also serves as the primary connection between Interstate 94 and U.S. Highway 10 for the large numbers of travelers heading north to enjoy the state's many lakes and other recreational facilities. Each weekend and during holidays all through the summer months and during hunting season, we see heavy traffic flows. The amount of traffic passing through on T.H. 24 during these busy periods adds to an already congested corridor, slowing down both local and commercial traffic and adding to the safety risks of residents.

The City of Clearwater is working with additional partners and agencies to prioritize necessary updates along this corridor. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has planned to update the Trunk Highway 24 bridge over Interstate 94 in 2026. Congressionally directed spending would enable the City of Clearwater to update the rest of the project area as outlined in the TH 24 Corridor Traffic Modeling/Geometric Layout Options Traffic Conditions Analysis Report.

The safety of residents is one of the top priorities of the City Council. According to the Clearwater Transportation Plan Update, there have been 44 crashes and one recorded injury along this corridor. Since the completion of that plan, there has also been a pedestrian fatality at the intersection of County Road 75. By removing several left-turn access points and implementing low-conflict intersections like roundabouts, these numbers can be reduced and future crashes can be prevented. Furthermore, a 10-foot multi-use trail and multiple pedestrian crossings would be added along the south side of TH 24, making the area much more accessible for people using non-motorized modes of transportation.

This funding would help address multiple long-standing issues concerning transportation, infrastructure, safety, and development across the City of Clearwater and within Wright County. The City Council looks forward to working with you on this important project for the City of Clearwater and the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annita M. Smythe', written in a cursive style.

Annita M. Smythe
City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer
City of Clearwater
On Behalf of the Clearwater City Council



Board of Commissioners

Darek Vetsch
District 2 Commissioner

10 2nd St. NW, Room 235
Buffalo, MN 55313

Ph: (763) 682-7687
Fax: (763) 682-6178

Darek.Vetsch
@co.wright.mn.us
www.co.wright.mn.us

March 22, 2023

Annita Smythe
City Administrator
605 County Rd 75 NW
Clearwater, MN 55320

RE: Support for the City of Clearwater's Pursuit of Congressionally Directed Spending for Trunk Highway 24 Improvements

To Ms. Smythe, City Administrator:

I write to voice strong support for the City of Clearwater's request of congressionally directed spending for engineering and right-of-way acquisition as part of the reconstruction of Trunk Highway 24 near the Interstate 94 intersection.

Congressionally directed spending would assist the City of Clearwater in improving the Trunk Highway 24 corridor. In recent years, the city has noted an increased need to address infrastructure and transportation projects in this area. This funding would allow the City of Clearwater to finalize the project design and acquire the right-of-way necessary to implement the improvements detailed in the TH 24 Corridor Traffic Modeling/Geometric Layout Options Traffic Conditions Analysis Report completed in December 2022.

The City of Clearwater is a small yet growing community within Wright County. The population of Clearwater has increased by more than six hundred percent since 1970, and numbers are expected to continue increasing through 2040 projections. More than seventy percent of residents travel to their jobs using personal vehicles, and most of these jobs are located outside of the city limits of Clearwater. This population growth has led to higher traffic volumes and congestion along the TH 24 corridor, particularly by the intersection of Interstate 94. Due to these higher traffic volumes, improvements are necessary to address growing safety and efficiency concerns.

The safety of all residents is of great importance. This project removes multiple dangerous left-turn access points and implements low-conflict roundabouts at intersections. In addition, a 10-foot multi-use trail along the south side of TH 24 would be installed, allowing bicyclists and pedestrians to use the corridor separate from motorized traffic and providing a direct link to downtown Clearwater. These safety improvements would benefit all users of the TH 24 corridor.

Wright County is a major player in Minnesota's agricultural economy. Trunk Highway 24 serves as a key freight corridor for agricultural goods, as it connects the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with the City of St. Cloud, North Dakota, and South Dakota. As county commissioners, it is our job to ensure the needs of agricultural

producers are being met, including when it comes to the transportation of goods. It is important for the county and for the state economy that agricultural goods are moved quickly and safely along the TH 24 corridor.

The City of Clearwater is working with partners at all levels to ensure this corridor remains functional while increasing safety and efficiency. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has planned to update the TH 24 bridge over Interstate 94 in 2026. This funding would help to address key issues concerning transportation, infrastructure, safety, and development across the City of Clearwater and Wright County. We encourage you to prioritize this important project for the City of Clearwater and all residents of the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Paul", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Chair Wright County Board of Commissioners



Jolene Foss
Executive Director
3650 Braddock Ave NE
Buffalo, MN 55313

March 23, 2023

RE: Support for the City of Clearwater's Pursuit of Congressionally Directed Spending for Trunk Highway 24 Improvements

To Ms. Smythe, City Administrator:

I write to voice strong support for the City of Clearwater's request of congressionally directed spending for engineering and right-of-way acquisition as part of the reconstruction of Trunk Highway 24 near the Interstate 94 intersection.

Receiving congressionally directed spending would assist the City of Clearwater in making needed improvements to the Trunk Highway 24 corridor. In recent years, the city has noted an increased need to address infrastructure and transportation projects in this area. This funding would allow the City of Clearwater to finalize the project design and acquire the right-of-way necessary to implement the improvements detailed in the TH 24 Corridor Traffic Modeling/ Geometric Layout Options Traffic Conditions Analysis Report completed in December 2022.

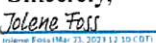
The City of Clearwater is a small yet growing community within Wright County. The population of Clearwater has increased by more than six hundred percent since 1970, and numbers are expected to continue increasing through 2040 projections. More than seventy percent of residents travel to their jobs using personal vehicles, and most of these jobs are located outside of the city limits of Clearwater. This population growth has led to higher traffic volumes and congestion along the TH 24 corridor, particularly by the intersection of Interstate 94. Due to these higher traffic volumes, improvements are necessary to address growing safety and efficiency concerns.

The safety of all residents is of great importance. This project removes multiple dangerous left turn access points and implements low conflict roundabouts at intersections. In addition, a 10 foot multi use trail along the south side of TH 24 would be installed, giving bicyclists and pedestrians a way to use the corridor separate from motorized traffic and providing a direct link to downtown Clearwater. These safety improvements would benefit all users of the TH 24 corridor.

Wright County is a major player in Minnesota's agricultural economy. Trunk Highway 24 serves as a key freight corridor for agricultural goods, as it connects the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with the City of St. Cloud, North Dakota, and South Dakota. As county commissioners, it is our job to ensure the needs of agricultural producers are being met, including when it comes to the transportation of goods. It is important for the county and for the state economy that agricultural goods are moved quickly and safely along the TH 24 corridor.

The City of Clearwater is working with partners at all levels to ensure this corridor remains functional while increasing safety and efficiency. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has planned to update the TH 24 bridge over Interstate 94 in 2026. This funding would help to address key issues concerning transportation, infrastructure, safety, and development across the City of Clearwater and Wright County. We encourage you to prioritize this important project for the City of Clearwater and all residents of the region.

Sincerely,


Jolene Foss

Jolene Foss

Executive Director

Wright County Economic Development Partnership

e-mail: admin@wrightpartnership.org
Web: www.wrightpartnership.org

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