

Senator Glenn Gruenhagen

Senate District 17
2417 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
Phone: (651) 296-4131
sen.glenn.gruenhagen@senate.mn



Senate

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Emmer,

As the State Senator representing Norwood Young America and the surrounding communities, I am proud to offer my strong support for the City of Norwood Young America's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request to advance the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project. This project is a critical investment in the future vitality of Norwood Young America, a community that reflects both historic charm and promising growth.

The project will revitalize the heart of downtown through streetscape enhancements — including trees, benches, and planters — while addressing urgent infrastructure needs. Planned improvements along 1st Avenue NE, 2nd Avenue NE, 3rd Avenue NE, and 1st Street NE will replace aging water and sewer systems compromised by corrosive soil conditions. These upgrades will reduce lead service line risks, strengthen public health safeguards, and improve failing curbs and pothole-ridden streets, enhancing safety and reducing long-term maintenance costs.

With Carver County being the fastest-growing county in Minnesota, proactive investments like this are vital. As families and businesses continue to grow here, maintaining strong infrastructure will ensure mobility, safety, and quality of life while preserving the historic character that residents cherish. The Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project represents a forward-looking, responsible approach to supporting this growth.

I respectfully urge your full support for the City's FY26 Community Project Funding request. Your leadership is vital to strengthening Norwood Young America and helping our communities remain vibrant for generations to come. Thank you for your continued commitment to Carver County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Gruenhagen".

State Senator Glenn Gruenhagen

Bobbie Harder

State Representative

District 17B

Sibley, Carver, McLeod Counties

April 28, 2025



Minnesota House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project

Dear Representative Emmer:

As the State Representative for Norwood Young America and the surrounding communities, I am proud to offer my strong support for the City of Norwood Young America's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request to advance the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

This project is a critical investment in the future vitality of Norwood Young America, a community that represents the best of our state's historic charm and promising growth. The project will revitalize the heart of downtown through essential streetscape enhancements — including installing new trees, benches, and planters — while addressing the urgent need for infrastructure upgrades. Planned improvements along 1st Avenue NE, 2nd Avenue NE, 3rd Avenue NE, and 1st Street NE from Central Avenue to 3rd Avenue NE will replace aging water and sewer systems that have suffered from corrosive soil conditions and deterioration over time.

These investments will not only modernize essential services, reduce lead service line risks, and strengthen public health safeguards, but they will also improve roadway conditions by reconstructing failing curbs and pothole-ridden streets. Proactive investments like these are critical for protecting public safety, enhancing mobility, and ensuring efficient stewardship of taxpayer dollars by reducing long-term maintenance costs.

Carver County is currently the fastest-growing county in Minnesota. As families, businesses, and industries continue to make their home here, it is imperative that our infrastructure keeps pace. The Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project will help the City of Norwood Young America meet the demands of tomorrow while preserving the character and livability that residents value today.

This project reflects a forward-looking, responsible approach to community development. I respectfully urge your full support for the City's FY26 Community Project Funding request. Your leadership is vital in helping our communities grow stronger, safer, and more vibrant for generations to come.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to Carver County and for your advocacy on behalf of Norwood Young America.

Sincerely,


State Representative Bobbie Harder
Minnesota House of Representatives





John P. Fahey
Office of County Commissioner
Carver County Government Center
Human Services Building
602 East Fourth Street
Chaska, MN 55318-1202
Phone: 952 361-1510
Fax: 952 361-1581

Representative Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Letter in Support of the City of Norwood Young America's Request for FY26 Community Project Funding

Dear Representative Emmer:

As the representative for Norwood Young America on the Carver County Board of Commissioners and a lifelong resident, I want to express my full support of the fiscal year 2026 City's request for direct Community Project Funding to advance the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

This initiative represents a vital investment in the future prosperity of Norwood Young America, a community that embodies the finest aspects of our state's historical allure and potential for growth. The project aims to rejuvenate the downtown area through necessary streetscape improvements, which include the installation of new trees, benches, and planters, while simultaneously addressing the pressing need for infrastructure upgrades. Proposed enhancements along 1st Avenue NE, 2nd Avenue NE, 3rd Avenue NE, and 1st Street NE from Central Avenue to 3rd Avenue NE will replace outdated water and sewer systems that have been compromised by corrosive soil conditions and deterioration over time.

These investments will not only modernize essential services, mitigate risks associated with lead service lines, and bolster public health protections, but they will also enhance roadway conditions by reconstructing failing curbs and repairing pothole-ridden streets. Such proactive investments are essential for safeguarding public safety, improving mobility, and ensuring the efficient management of taxpayer funds by lowering long-term maintenance expenses.

Carver County is presently the most rapidly expanding county in Minnesota. As families, businesses, and industries continue to establish themselves here, it is essential that our infrastructure evolves accordingly. The Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project aims to assist the City of Norwood Young America in addressing future demands while maintaining the character and livability that residents cherish today. This initiative embodies a proactive and responsible strategy for community development. I earnestly request your complete support for the City's FY26 Community Project Funding proposal. Your leadership is crucial in fostering stronger, safer, and more vibrant communities for future generations.

Sincerely,

John P Fahey (Apr 28, 2025 15:00 CDT)

John P. Fahey
County Commissioner – District 5
Carver County



April 28, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer

326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project

Dear Representative Emmer:

On behalf of the City of Norwood Young America, I respectfully express our strong support for the City's request for Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding to advance the **Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project**.

This transformative initiative represents a strategic investment in the heart of our community. The project will revitalize our historic Main Street core, enhancing its functionality and aesthetic appeal through streetscape improvements, including new trees, benches, and planters. Additionally, critical reconstruction work will be undertaken along adjacent portions of 1st Avenue NE, 2nd Avenue NE, 3rd Avenue NE, and 1st Street NE from Central Avenue to 3rd Avenue NE, modernizing key infrastructure essential for future growth.

A significant project component is replacing aging and deteriorating water and sewer systems. Corrosive soil conditions and outdated infrastructure have led to increasingly unreliable service in the project area. By installing new, adequately sized, corrosion-resistant pipelines, this project will strengthen our community's resilience, support ongoing efforts to replace lead service lines, and safeguard public health.

The proposed improvements will also address severe roadway degradation, including potholes and failing curbs, compromising safety and mobility. Upgrading these vital corridors will improve driving conditions and enable the City's Street Maintenance Department to proactively manage systemwide needs, increasing efficiency and reducing long-term maintenance costs.

Carver County, home to Norwood Young America, is the fastest-growing county in Minnesota. As our population expands, the need for reliable, modern infrastructure becomes even more critical. Investing now will ensure our city remains well-positioned to accommodate future growth, attract economic development, and sustain a high quality of life for our residents and businesses.

The Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project is about more than restoring infrastructure — it is about building a vibrant, welcoming community for generations to come. I appreciate your leadership and attention to this important request, and I respectfully urge your full support for funding this critical investment through the FY26 Community Project Funding process.

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Connor Smith

Mayor
City of Norwood Young America

Norwood Young America



April 28, 2025

Congressman Tom Emmer
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Emmer:

On behalf of Central Public Schools, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Norwood Young America's application for federal discretionary funding for the 2026 Main Street/County Road 34 Beautification and Reconstruction Project and the 1st Street NE Area Reconstruction Project.

These projects are vital investments in the future of our community. As the superintendent of a district committed to providing safe, high-quality educational experiences for our students, I can attest that infrastructure improvements directly impact the quality of life for our families, students, and staff. The proposed enhancements to Main Street and surrounding areas will not only improve traffic safety and accessibility but also create a more vibrant, welcoming environment that reflects the pride we have in our community and schools.

Modern, efficient infrastructure is essential for the continued growth and success of Norwood Young America. These projects will support local businesses, strengthen public safety, and create a more connected community for current and future generations. Moreover, they align with our district's broader mission of fostering strong partnerships between schools, families, and the community at large.

Central Public Schools is proud to support this initiative, and I respectfully urge you to approve the City's request for funding. Thank you for your leadership and ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of Norwood Young America and the greater region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Schochenmaier".

Timothy Schochenmaier

Superintendent



April 28, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project

Dear Representative Emmer:

On behalf of 4.0 School Services, a proud member of Norwood Young America's business community and a provider of student transportation services, I am writing to express our strong support for the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

As a company operating daily within the project area, we see firsthand how critical these improvements are — not only for the vitality of our community but for the safety of the students, families, and pedestrians we serve. Safe, well-maintained streets are essential for the reliable transportation of students to and from school. The planned upgrades to streetscapes — including new sidewalks, curbs, and traffic-calming features — will greatly enhance safety for children walking to bus stops, pedestrians navigating downtown, and our drivers operating large school buses in tight, sometimes challenging conditions.

Equally important are the much-needed infrastructure upgrades that this project will deliver. Replacing aging and deteriorating water and sewer systems will help eliminate service disruptions that can impact traffic flow and public health—both of which are crucial to maintaining safe and dependable transportation services for students.

Addressing the severe roadway degradation in the project area is a key priority. Potholes, broken curbs, and uneven road surfaces pose daily risks to pedestrians and vehicles, particularly school buses requiring clear, stable routes to load and unload students safely. Upgrading these streets will significantly improve driving conditions, reduce hazards, and allow our drivers to focus on what matters most: the safety of the children in their care.

Our infrastructure must keep pace as Norwood Young America continues to grow within Carver County — Minnesota's fastest-growing county. Investing now in the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project ensures that we create a safer, more accessible community for our current and future generations.

This project is not just about improving infrastructure but prioritizing safety, supporting families, and fostering a vibrant, connected community. As a transportation provider responsible for the well-being of hundreds of students daily, I strongly urge your full support for this essential funding through the FY26 Community Project Funding process.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to the safety and future of our community.

Sincerely,

Luke W. Wolter

Luke Wolter, Director of Transportation
4.0 School Service
13050 Stewart Ave
NYA MN 55368

Phone
(952) 467- 4227
Join Us Soon

WILLKOMMEN
HERITAGE CENTER
102 MAIN STREET EAST - PO Box #113
NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA, MN 55397

Hours
Thursday - Friday - Saturday
10AM to 2PM

April 28, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project

Dear Representative Emmer:

On behalf of the Willkommen Historical & Preservation Society, a proud member of Norwood Young America's historic downtown community, I am writing to express my strong support for the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

As a non-profit organization located directly within the project area, I see firsthand how vital this investment is to the future of our local economy. The planned improvements — including new streetscaping elements like trees, benches, and planters — will greatly enhance the beauty and vibrancy of our downtown, creating a more inviting environment for customers, residents, and visitors alike. Revitalizing the heart of our city will strengthen local amenities like ours and stimulate further commercial activity.

Equally important are the essential infrastructure upgrades that this project will deliver. The replacement of deteriorating water and sewer systems is critical. Many of us in the area have experienced unreliable service due to outdated pipes and corrosive soil conditions. Modernizing these systems with durable, properly sized pipelines will not only support public health but also ensure that our businesses can continue to operate without disruption.

Addressing the severe roadway deterioration is another key element of this project. Current potholes, broken curbs, and uneven surfaces discourage foot and vehicle traffic — directly impacting our visitors and their experience. By upgrading these streets, the City will improve access, safety, and the overall attractiveness of downtown, helping businesses thrive and grow.

Norwood Young America is part of Carver County, Minnesota's fastest-growing county. With growth comes opportunity — but only if we are prepared. Investing in the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project now will position our community to attract new businesses; encourage entrepreneurship, and sustain a strong local economy for years to come.

This project is not just about repairing old infrastructure; it is about building a vibrant, economically resilient community. As the president of the Willkommen Historical & Preservation Society, chairperson of the NYA Senior Advisory Commission, and president of the NYA Lions Club, I can confidently say that the success of downtown businesses and the overall economic health of our city depend on moving this project forward.

Thank you for considering this critical funding request. I urge your full support for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project through the FY26 Community Project Funding process.

Sincerely,


LaVonne Kroells, President

Willkommen Historical & Preservation Society, 102 E Main Street



910 Meadows Blvd
Norwood Young America, MN 55397

April 28, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer

326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project

Dear Representative Emmer:

On behalf of the Young America Cardinals, one of Norwood Young America's hometown baseball teams and proud users of the Willkommen Memorial Ballfield, I am writing to express our strong support for the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

Our club calls the Willkommen Memorial Ballfield — located right along Main Street — home. Every season, we welcome players, fans, families, and visitors to our games, and the need for improvements to the surrounding infrastructure has become increasingly clear. Safe, accessible streets and sidewalks are crucial for everyone attending our events, from young children and seniors to out-of-town visitors experiencing Norwood Young America for the first time.

The planned streetscape improvements — including upgraded sidewalks, curbs, and pedestrian amenities — will significantly enhance safety for everyone walking to the ballfield, parking nearby, or using the park facilities. Right now, deteriorating roads, broken curbs, potholes, and uneven surfaces pose real risks to pedestrians and drivers alike. Whether it's families with strollers, fans carrying lawn chairs, or players loading equipment, everyone will benefit from a safer, better-connected downtown.

The project's infrastructure upgrades are equally vital. Replacing failing water and sewer systems will help ensure that our community park spaces, including the ballfield, remain reliable and welcoming. Modern, durable infrastructure supports not only public health but also the overall experience for everyone who spends time downtown and at the park.

As a non-profit town team baseball club, we rely on the strength of our community. Safe, inviting public spaces are key to maintaining the vibrant community spirit that brings people together at the ballpark and throughout Norwood Young America. The Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project will help ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the sense of pride and belonging that our town team and local parks represent.

Carver County's growth shows no signs of slowing, and Norwood Young America must continue investing in infrastructure supporting residents and visitors. The improvements proposed in this project will have lasting benefits for our community, our fans, and everyone who calls Norwood Young America home.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important project. We respectfully urge your full support for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project through the FY26 Community Project Funding process.

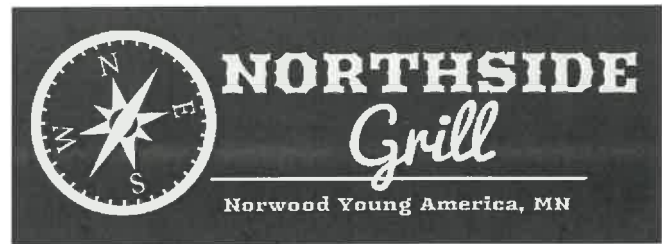
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Brandon M. Stender". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brandon Stender, Young America Cardinals Manager

April 28, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project

Dear Representative Emmer:

On behalf of NorthSide Grill, a proud member of Norwood Young America's historic downtown community, we are writing to express our strong support for the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

As a business located directly within the project area, we see firsthand how vital this investment is to the future of our local economy. The planned improvements – including new streetscaping elements like trees, benches, and planters – will greatly enhance the beauty and vibrancy of our downtown, creating a more inviting environment for customers, residents, and visitors alike. Revitalizing the heart of our city will strengthen small businesses like ours and stimulate further commercial activity.

Equally important are the essential infrastructure upgrades that this project will deliver. The replacement of deteriorating water and sewer systems is critical. Many of us in the area have experienced unreliable service due to outdated pipes and corrosive soil conditions. Modernizing these systems with durable, properly sized pipelines will not only support public health but also ensure that our businesses can continue to operate without disruption.

Addressing the severe roadway deterioration is another key element of this project. Current potholes, broken curbs, and uneven surfaces discourage foot and vehicle traffic – directly impacting our sales and customer experience. By upgrading these streets, the City will improve access, safety, and the overall attractiveness of downtown, helping businesses thrive and grow.

Norwood Young America is part of Carver County, Minnesota's fastest-growing county. With growth comes opportunity – but only if we are prepared. Investing in the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project now will position our community to attract new businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and sustain a strong local economy for years to come.

This project is not just about repairing old infrastructure; it is about building a vibrant, economically resilient community. As local business owners, we can confidently say that the success of downtown businesses and the overall economic health of our city depends on moving this project forward.

Thank you for considering this critical funding request. We urge your full support for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project through the FY26 Community Project Funding process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sandi Harms & CindyAnn Lambright', is written over a horizontal line.

Sandi Harms & CindyAnn Lambright, Co-Owners
NorthSide Grill, 105 E Main Street, NYA MN 55397



April 29, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer

326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America
Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project**

Dear Representative Emmer:

On behalf of Seams Like A Good Idea, a proud member of Norwood Young America's historic downtown community, I am writing to express my strong support for the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

As a business located directly within the project area, I see firsthand how vital this investment is to the future of our local economy. The planned improvements — including new streetscaping elements like trees, benches, and planters — will greatly enhance the beauty and vibrancy of our downtown, creating a more inviting environment for customers, residents, and visitors alike. Revitalizing the heart of our city will strengthen small businesses like ours and stimulate further commercial activity.

Equally important are the essential infrastructure upgrades that this project will deliver. The replacement of deteriorating water and sewer systems is critical. Many of us in the area have experienced unreliable service due to outdated pipes and corrosive soil conditions. Modernizing these systems with durable, properly sized pipelines will not only support public health but also ensure that our businesses can continue to operate without disruption.

Addressing the severe roadway deterioration is another key element of this project. Current potholes, broken curbs, and uneven surfaces discourage foot and vehicle traffic — directly impacting our sales and customer experience. By upgrading these streets, the City will improve access, safety, and the overall attractiveness of downtown, helping businesses thrive and grow.

Norwood Young America is part of Carver County, Minnesota's fastest-growing county. With growth comes opportunity — but only if we are prepared. Investing in the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project now will position our community to attract new businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and sustain a strong local economy for years to come.

This project is not just about repairing old infrastructure; it is about building a vibrant, economically resilient community. As a local business owner, I can confidently say that the success of downtown businesses and the overall economic health of our city depends on moving this project forward.

Thank you for considering this critical funding request. I urge your full support for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project through the FY26 Community Project Funding process.

Sincerely,

Erin Allard, Owner

Seams Like A Good Idea, 18 3rd Ave SE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Allard', written in a fluid, cursive style.

April 28, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for FY26 Community Project Funding – City of Norwood Young America Historic Downtown
Young America Beautification Project**

Dear Representative Emmer:

As a proud resident of Norwood Young America's historic downtown community, I am writing to express my strong support for the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project.

Living directly within the project area, I experience daily how critical these improvements are for our community's well-being, safety, and future growth. The planned enhancements—such as new trees, benches, and planters—will greatly improve the appearance and livability of our downtown, creating a more welcoming and vibrant environment for families, neighbors, and visitors alike. Restoring the heart of our city will not only make Norwood Young America more beautiful but also encourage a stronger sense of community pride and connection.

Equally important are the needed upgrades to our aging water and sewer systems. As a resident, I am concerned about the increasing unreliability of these essential services, caused by outdated infrastructure and corrosive soil conditions. Modernizing these systems with durable, properly sized pipelines will help protect public health, prevent future service disruptions, and ensure our neighborhood remains a safe and comfortable place to live.

The condition of our streets is also a serious issue. Potholes, crumbling curbs, and uneven surfaces pose safety hazards for drivers, pedestrians, and especially for families with young children. Upgrading our roadways will not only improve safety and mobility but also enhance the overall quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and visits downtown.

Carver County, including Norwood Young America, is growing rapidly. Investing in critical projects like this beautification and infrastructure upgrade will allow us to meet the needs of a growing population while preserving the charm and community spirit that make our city so special.

This project is about more than infrastructure, it's about building a safer, stronger, and more vibrant future for Norwood Young America. As a resident who deeply cares about our community's future, I respectfully urge your full support for the Historic Downtown Young America Beautification Project through the FY26 Community Project Funding process.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting the future of our hometown.

Sincerely,



Karla Hormann, NYA Resident
210 1st Street NE, NYA MN 55397