

Nowthen City Office
8188 199th Ave. NW
Nowthen MN, 55330
(763)-441-1347



Council Meeting Location:
Historic Townhall
19800 Nowthen Blvd NW
Nowthen MN, 55330

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Thomas Earl Emmer Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter of Support
Jasper Street and 185th Avenue (Nowthen, MN)

Dear Representative Emmer,

We are writing to formally express our support for the City of Nowthen's application for grant funding for the reconstruction of Jasper Street and 185th Avenue. This project represents an essential public safety and infrastructure improvement initiative that warrants full consideration.

The existing roadway conditions along both corridors present significant safety concerns. Jasper Street and 185th Avenue are currently substandard in width and contain steep, non-recoverable side slopes that increase the risk of roadway departure crashes. To address these deficiencies, the City proposes to widen the roadways from 22 feet to 32 feet and reconstruct the side slopes to meet the safety requirements established under Minnesota Rules 8820.9920. These improvements are necessary to bring the roadways into compliance with modern engineering and safety standards.


Funding assistance is critical for the successful implementation of this project. The City of Nowthen has limited funding mechanisms available—specifically special assessments and property tax levies. With only 41 properties directly served by this corridor, the estimated project cost of approximately \$2.19 million would result in an assessment exceeding **\$53,000 per property, creating an untenable financial burden**. A general levy increase would similarly strain the broader tax base.

Additionally, because the City of Nowthen's population (estimated 4,538) falls below the statutory threshold for Municipal State Aid eligibility (5,000) Nowthen is ineligible for Municipal State Aid funding. Municipal State Aid funding is a commonly used source for roadway reconstruction projects of this nature. As a result, grant funding represents the only viable means to advance this critical improvement.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of the City's funding application. Completion of this project will significantly enhance public safety and roadway reliability, and the City of Nowthen is fully committed to the long-term maintenance and stewardship of the improved corridor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support of local infrastructure needs.

Respectfully,


Mayor, Shari Hybben
City of Nowthen

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Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support of local infrastructure needs. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at ShaneN@haa-inc.com or by phone at 763-852-0479 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shane Nelson".

Shane Nelson
City of Nowthen
Consulting City Engineer