



209 South Vine Street • Waconia MN 55387 • 953.442.5812 • DestinationWaconia.org

March 2, 2026

Congressman Tom Emmer

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Senator Tina Smith

RE: Support for the City of Waconia's Highway 5 South Frontage Road Extension Project

Honorable Minnesota Delegation Members,

Writing on behalf of the Waconia Chamber of Commerce, I want to express our full support for the City of Waconia's pursuit of federal funding to construct the Highway 5 South Frontage Road Project.

The proposed frontage road extension will open over 70 acres for in-demand commercial and industrial land, just south of the Highway 5 Corridor. A 2022 Small Area Plan confirmed the demand for industrial development and projected that planned development will create 100 to 150 new jobs, \$10 million in annual income, and \$5 million in tax revenue.

The City of Waconia is one of the fastest-growing cities in Carver County, which is one of the fastest-growing counties in Minnesota. Waconia grew by over 2,300 residents (22%) between the 2010 and 2020 censuses. This growth created strong demand for jobs and amenities, further increasing demand for the regional and local transportation system to support it. The City of Waconia has invested nearly \$30 million in local funds to improve State Highways 5 and 284 and build out local frontage roads to responsibly grow while ensuring a safe and reliable transportation system.

A Congressionally Directed Spending allocation would ensure delivery of the last piece of the Highway 5 South Frontage Road system, opening up some of the last areas of developable land within the City of Waconia.

A safe and efficient transportation system is vital for making Waconia an attractive place to live, work, and do business. As such, we view the proposed project as a responsible investment to support both current and future residents, businesses, and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to advocate for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Christine Fenner

President, Waconia Chamber of Commerce



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RE: Support for the City of Waconia's Highway 5 South Frontage Road Extension Project

Honorable Minnesota Delegation Members,

On behalf of Ridgeview Medical Center, I am writing to voice our strong support for the City of Waconia's pursuit of federal funding to construct the Highway 5 South Frontage Road Project.

Ridgeview Medical Center is located on Highway 5, just west of the project area. The south frontage road extension project will allow the community to responsibly grow necessary jobs and services while ensuring that Highway 5 functions as the regional corridor it is intended to be. This is critical to ensure that emergency vehicles can respond rapidly and reliably to community needs and that our physicians and supporting hospital staff can arrive to work safely and on time.

Ridgeview is recognized among the top 5 percent of hospitals nationwide for patient experience, and has been for seventeen consecutive years. Our Waconia facility provides access to 175 practicing physicians covering about 45 medical specialties, including emergency medicine, surgery, cardiology, OB/GYN, internal medicine, and more. As such, we are also a top employer in the region.

Our Waconia Campus provides care to some of the fastest-growing communities in Carver County and adjacent counties, including Chaska, Chanhassen, Carver, Victoria, Watertown, Delano, the Excelsior/Lake Minnetonka area, Arlington, Le Sueur, Belle Plaine, and surrounding rural communities. Over the last decade, the City of Waconia and our surrounding service area have experienced rapid growth, resulting in increased traffic and demand for access to our healthcare services. We recognize that the City of Waconia has invested significantly in addressing frequent delays and heightened crash rates on State Highways 5 and 284, which are critical corridors for rapid regional access to our emergency services. We also recognize that the Highway 5 South Frontage Road Project is a continuation of and preservation of past investments. We appreciate the opportunity to support this investment.

Sincerely,



Michael Phelps
President and CEO
Ridgeview Medical Center and Clinics



**Carver County
Public Works**

11360 Highway 212, Suite 1
Cologne, MN 55322

March 2, 2026

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Senator Tina Smith

RE: Support for the City of Waconia's Highway 5 South Frontage Road Extension Project.

Honorable Minnesota Delegation Members,

On behalf of Carver County, I am pleased to offer our support for the City of Waconia's pursuit of federal funding to advance the Highway 5 South Frontage Road Project. This initiative supports ongoing Highway 5 improvements, with a complete local transportation system that also supports responsible growth.

Waconia is one of Carver County's fastest-growing communities and is a regional hub for top-rated medical care (Ridgeview Medical Center), jobs, amenities, schools, and childcare. Carver County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Minnesota. This growth has created demand for jobs and services while also straining our local and regional transportation systems. Several of our local partners, including the City of Waconia, have stepped up to lead investments in the state highway system, where MnDOT lacks the capacity or budget to address high-volume and crash-rate corridors, such as Highway 5, that become significant barriers for our residents and businesses.

We also recognize that, in addition to preserving investments along the Highway 5 corridor, this South Frontage Road Extension Project will open access to more than 70 acres for in-demand commercial and industrial development. This is estimated to create 100 to 150 new jobs, \$10 million in annual income, and \$5 million in tax revenue to Carver County.

For these reasons, we believe the Highway 5 South Frontage Road Extension is both timely and necessary, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide our support.

Sincerely,

Lyndon Colebrook-Robjent
Carver County Public Works Director/County Engineer