



Anoka County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

MIKE GAMACHE
County Commissioner
Chair, District #5

May 1, 2025

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

RE: 2025 Community Project Funding Request for Anoka County's Minnesota State Highway 65 & Bunker Lake Blvd Project

On behalf of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express our strong support for the Community Project Funding Request submitted by Anoka County to fund critical improvements on Trunk Highway (TH) 65 from 117th Avenue to CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard). TH 65 serves as a vital north-south transportation corridor in Anoka County and the cities of Ham Lake and Blaine, providing essential connectivity for residents, businesses, and commuters. However, increasing traffic volumes have led to rising congestion and serious crash rates, underscoring the urgent need for improvements to enhance safety, mobility, and community connectivity.

In 2018, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in coordination with Anoka County, FHWA, and the cities of Blaine, Ham Lake, and Spring Lake Park, conducted a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study to evaluate corridor improvement alternatives for TH 65. Building on this effort, Anoka County, in partnership with MnDOT and local municipalities, is leading project development to deliver the community's vision.

We are very grateful to Congressman Tom Emmer for his support. A CPF award will enable Anoka County to implement these improvements, and we are committed to delivering the project as proposed and on schedule. The Minnesota State Highway 65 & Bunker Lake Blvd Project will significantly enhance safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness in our region.

Sincerely,

Mike Gamache, Chair
Anoka County Board of Commissioners

MG:bv



395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

May 6, 2025

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

Re: 2025 Community Project Funding Request for Anoka County's Minnesota State Highway 65 and
Bunker Lake Boulevard Project in Ham Lake, Minnesota

Dear Congressman Emmer,

This letter is in reference to a request by Anoka County for 2025 Community Project Funding for the City of Ham Lake's Trunk Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard Project in the Anoka County, Minnesota.

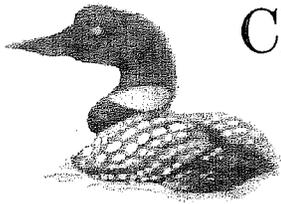
This project is a locally led project on MnDOT's Trunk Highway System. This project will create a new interchange, elevating TH 65 over Bunker Lake Boulevard, including improvements to the supporting highway and local system.

This initiative is the second phase of a comprehensive plan led by the local partners to convert TH 65 into a freeway with grade-separated interchanges. The first phase, a \$200 million investment, is scheduled to begin construction in 2025, and will establish new interchanges at 99th Avenue, 105th Avenue, 109th Avenue and 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive intersections within the City of Blaine. Upon completion, the intersection of TH 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard will be the final, at-grade, signalized intersection designated for freeway conversion.

This project will improve travel time and safety along the corridor. Currently, the total project cost estimate is \$47.7 million. Anoka County has been awarded \$10 million from the Metropolitan Council's Regional Solicitation process. It is MnDOT's assumption at this time that the local agency will be responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps beyond the MnDOT commitment. This project is planned for construction in 2028.

MnDOT does not have this project fully funded in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), or funding identified in the MnDOT's 10-year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). At this time, full build project funding is not secured. At such time that full funding is identified, MnDOT will add the project to the STIP. MnDOT will also coordinate with Anoka County to implement the project.

MnDOT is committed to partnering and continued cooperation with Anoka County as they develop this project and explore other funding opportunities to improve this transportation need.



CITY OF HAM LAKE

15544 Central Avenue NE
Ham Lake, Minnesota 55304
(763) 434-9555
Fax: (763) 434-9599

May 1, 2025

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

RE: 2025 Community Project Funding Request for Anoka County's Minnesota State Highway 65 & Bunker Lake Blvd Project

On behalf of the City of Ham Lake, I am writing to express our strong support for Anoka County's Community Project Funding Request to reconstruct the Trunk Highway 65 (TH 65) and CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard) intersection and supporting segments, along with necessary local system improvements.

Trunk Highway 65 is a vital north-south transportation corridor serving the cities of Blaine, Ham Lake, and Anoka County. As traffic volumes continue to grow due to regional development, congestion along this corridor has increasingly impacted mobility and safety. Without significant improvements, serious and fatal crashes are expected to rise, further underscoring the urgent need for action.

Since 2018, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Cities of Ham Lake and Blaine, and Anoka County have collaborated to plan for mobility and safety enhancements along TH 65. Anoka County is now leading this phase two investment, which builds upon the findings of a 2018-2021 study led by MnDOT. The proposed improvements will address critical safety concerns, reduce congestion, and enhance the local transportation system to better serve our growing community.

The City of Ham Lake is proud to be a financial partner in this project and looks forward to continuing to work with Anoka County to deliver this critical transportation need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'B. ...' followed by a stylized flourish.

Mayor



City of Blaine

10801 Town Square Drive NE

Blaine MN 55449-8100

City Hall 763-784-6700 | BlaineMN.gov

May 1, 2025

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

RE: 2025 Community Project Funding Request for Anoka County's Minnesota State Highway 65 & Bunker Lake Blvd Project

On behalf of the City of Blaine, I am writing to express our strong support for Anoka County's Community Project Funding request for the Trunk Highway 65 project in the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota. This funding is critical to advancing the Trunk Highway 65 (TH 65) and CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard) Improvement Project, which aims to address significant transportation challenges in our region.

Trunk Highway 65 serves as a vital north-south transportation corridor for Blaine, Ham Lake, and Anoka County. However, increasing traffic volumes have led to growing congestion, negatively impacting mobility and safety. Without intervention, serious and fatal crashes are expected to rise, further underscoring the urgent need for improvements at TH 65 intersections and the adjacent local transportation system.

Since 2018, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Cities of Ham Lake and Blaine, and Anoka County have collaborated to plan for mobility and safety enhancements along this corridor. The proposed improvements are the result of a comprehensive study conducted between 2018 and 2021, led by MnDOT, and represent a critical phase two investment in the TH 65 corridor.

The City of Blaine is proud to be a financial partner in this project. This investment will not only improve transportation infrastructure but also enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses in Blaine, Ham Lake, and Anoka County. The City of Blaine looks forward to continuing to work with Anoka County to deliver this critical transportation need.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Tim Sanders, Mayor



May 1, 2025

Representative Tom Emmer
6th District, Minnesota
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Emmer:

As the region's metropolitan planning organization, the Metropolitan Council supports transportation systems that meet the safety and multimodal accessibility needs for people and goods. Anoka County's Trunk Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard intersection improvement will improve safety along a corridor with three times higher crash rate than the state average with the construction of an interchange and related local transportation system improvements. If the project is selected for Community Project Funding, the Council is committed to amending the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Carlson".

Charles Carlson
Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services Division
Metropolitan Council

METRONORTH

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 6, 2025

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

RE: 2025 Community Project Funding Request for Anoka County's Minnesota State Highway 65 & Bunker Lake Blvd Project

Dear Congressman Tom Emmer:

On behalf of the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express support for Anoka County's Community Project Funding request.

The MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the north metro area, representing over 700 businesses and organizations. MetroNorth is dedicated to fostering workforce, economic, and community development. We support businesses, families, and students by facilitating programming and events to build connections, advocating on key legislative issues, and supporting leadership and business recovery efforts.

The Chamber strives to ensure that businesses have the resources and support they need to thrive, and a safe and reliable transportation system is essential to the health and success of our region's economy. TH 65 is a vital principal arterial that moves up to 60,000 commuters and freight vehicles daily. It can safely be assumed that a larger majority of these daily travelers are employees, patrons, and goods/service providers to our businesses. Expected travel delays and increasing safety concerns will continue to impede regional and local access necessary to support our businesses and regional economies. This funding is crucial for reconstructing the at-grade signalized intersection of Highway 65 (TH 65) and Bunker Lake Blvd (CSAH 116). The project will create a new interchange, elevating TH 65 over Bunker Lake Blvd, including supporting highway and local system improvements and addressing non-motorized network gaps.

For the reasons above, we request your favorable consideration of this proposal. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lori Higgins

Lori Higgins, President