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March 29, 2023















RE: Letter of Support for City of Becker's application for federal funding of US Highway 10/MN 25 intersection

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Becker has formed a working group with the MN Department of Transportation and Sherburne County to identify improvements to the above-referenced intersection located on the western side of Becker. The at-grade intersection of the two highways is further complicated by an adjacent rail line carrying approximately 30 trains per day. Connecting to the south of this intersection is County Road 52 which has a train crossing.

There are 16,000+ daily vehicles on Highway 10 at higher speed limits, which is creating dangerous conditions for the stopped vehicles that need to enter or cross Highway 10. Further, as the city develops approximately 1,000 acres of industrial land on the south side of Highway 10, this intersection will become critical to safely allow businesses and workers easier access to the highway system.

The working group has been working for two years to develop design alternatives and have recently arrived on a preferred solution that would have a bridge crossing for Highway 25, and Country Road 25. This would eliminate all at-grade vehicle conflicts as well as bridge the rail line. This application is for the next stage of the project – right of way acquisition and final plan design.

On behalf of the Becker City Council, I urge your support of this application. Thank you for your consideration.

Singerely,

Tracy Bertram,

City of Becker



March 30th, 2023

Bruce A. Messelt **County Administrator**

Sherburne County Government Center 13880 Business Center Drive Suite 100 Elk River, MN 55330-4668 Bruce.Messelt@co.sherburne.mn.us (763) 765-3001 1-800-433-5229

RE: Letter of Support for the City of Becker's Application for Federal Funding for U.S. Highway 10/MN 25 Intersection Improvements

To Whom it May Concern:

Sherburne County is part of a working group formed by the City of Becker and including the MN Department of Transportation to identify improvements to the above-referenced intersection located on the western side of Becker. The current at-grade intersection of the two highways is further complicated by an adjacent rail line carrying approximately 30 trains per day, with upwards of 90 trains per day historically. Connecting to the south of this intersection is County Road 52, which has an at grade railway crossing.

There are 16,000+ high speed vehicles traveling on Highway 10 daily, creating dangerous conditions for stopped vehicles that need to enter or cross the intersection. Further, as the City endeavors to develop approximately 1,000 acres of industrial land south of Highway 10, this intersection will become increasingly critical to safely allow business and employee access to and from the highway system.

The working group has been endeavoring for two years to develop design alternatives for this intersection; and have recently arrived on a locally favored solution - a grade separated interchange for Highway 25, and Country Road 52. This would eliminate all at-grade vehicular and rail conflicts. The City's application for consideration for federal funding is for the next stage of the project - right of way acquisition and final plan design.

While the County's top infrastructure priority remains securing final construction dollars for completion of a grade separated interchange on U.S. 169 and CSAH 4 in Zimmerman, and to the extent consideration for funding of said projects are not in conflict, the County supports the City's request for "next stage" funding for this locally led project.

The County also notes that, upon completion of the U.S. 169/CSAH 4 Zimmerman interchange project. safety improvements along U.S. Highway 10, such as this proposed by the City of Becker, are its next top infrastructure priorities. Included in the County's desired safety improvement projects along this corridor is addressing significant deficiencies at the intersection of U.S. Highway 10 and CSAH 11, which currently serves as a driver-preferred de facto alternative for MN Trunk Highway 25 traffic.

Design and construction of the U.S. Highway 10/MN 25 Intersection, with its at grade challenges with both roadway and railway, will greatly advance and influence future efforts at the similarly challenged U.S. Highway 10 and CSAH 11 intersection.

As such, and on behalf of Sherburne County, we offer our support for the City of Becker's application for consideration of federal funding.

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