

October 14, 2021

Anna Gruber, City Administrator
City of Sartell
125 Pinecone Road North
Sartell, MN 56377

RE: Letter of Support for the Sartell's 15th Street North Corridor

Dear Ms. Gruber:

In 2016, the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) helped fund a corridor study for extending 15th Street North in Sartell from Pinecone Road to 30th Avenue North (sometimes also called "Townline Road").

The study demonstrated the value of the 15th Street corridor extension to help improve system-wide traffic flow in the City of Sartell, as well as providing needed infrastructure for the future growth of the City. The study also suggested phasing development of the corridor, with Phase 1 addressing more immediate needs, and Phase 2 addressing more longer-range needs.

Based on the need to improve system connectivity for current residents to the western side of the city and to help alleviate growing traffic congestion and safety concerns on existing roadways, Phase 1 to extend 15th Street North from Pinecone Road to 19th Avenue North was included in the APO's most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

This letter affirms the APO's concurrence as to the value and necessity of the 15th Street North extension, and its eligibility to received Federal surface transportation funds.

Sincerely,



Brian Gibson
St. Cloud APO Executive Director

November 23, 2021

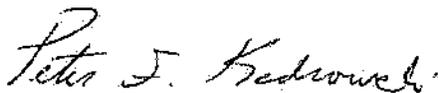
To Whom it May Concern,

First off, I wanted to thank you for your consideration of the City of Sartell as we pursue a grant for the 15th Street N. project. As I have only been with Sartell for just under a year, it has been very apparent that we have entered a rapid growth phase in our community as it is highly sought after for its excellent schools, cleanliness, and small-town feel. With this, we are experiencing many challenges as we seek to continue to provide high-quality public safety to our residents.

Sartell's growth seems to follow our main north/south corridor Pinecone Road in which our new Public Safety Facility is located on. We currently have limited routes that connect the city from east to west and especially to the rapidly developing area to the west. As Fire Chief my primary concern has always been to provide a "high-quality, well-trained crew in a timely manner". There are many factors that effect that outcome from staffing to location and many others. As a paid-on call fire department we are already minutes behind when responding to fires and other emergencies and I have always preached to our crews to take the least residential route possible as appropriate to get to the call. This is an extremely important factor in providing a safe response. The residents that live in the northwest corner of our community continually come to the city council meeting to address their safety and traffic concerns related to their neighborhoods as they have become inundated with traffic from the growing developments in the area. As Fire Chief I cringe when we are dispatched to any residence in this area as I know we will be responding through a highly residential area with many curious children; always balancing a need for a quick response with the public's safety.

The addition of 15th Street N. is a high priority to the city and a high priority to Sartell's public safety. This new connection would greatly increase emergency response time and the safety of the public while responding. Please highly consider helping us to provide increased safety to our community by providing an excellent solution to this rapidly growing problem.

Sincerely,



Peter F. Kedrowski

Fire Chief

SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN ISD 748

212 Third Avenue North
Sartell, MN 56377
p 320.656.3701
f 320.656.3765



DR. JEFF
RIDLEHOOVER
SUPERINTENDENT
320.656.3715

October 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to enthusiastically express support for the City of Sartell to connect 19th Ave. North to Pinecone Road. This would be accomplished by constructing a thoroughfare, 15th Street North.

The rationale behind our support of the project involves safety, efficiency, and cost savings. Currently, our school buses have to navigate south through high-capacity residential areas in order to transport students to their school sites in the northern portion of the district. With finite financial resources and the increased cost of fuel, this burden has become significant. In addition, students are asked to ride on longer bus routes and this is especially true of our students who reside in rural areas who experience routes that are significantly longer than otherwise necessary.

In closing, I sincerely thank you for your consideration of this project and share support of myself and our School Board for the construction of 15th Street North.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff P. Ridlehoover". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover
Superintendent



LESAUK TOWNSHIP

Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk
2293 Pinecone Road
Sartell, MN 56377

Telephone 320-252-6158 or 654-8565

Thursday, October 14, 2021

Office of Senator Tina Smith
Congressionally Designated Project Request

To Whom it May Concern:

LeSauk Township is aware of the City of Sartell's request for Congressional Designation for Project Funding for 15th Street North and is writing to provide our utmost support for the project. LeSauk Township strongly supports efforts to improve this roadway and encourages designation and funding for this crucial connection.

LeSauk Township borders the City of Sartell and 15th Street North is an important roadway that will connect a township road (often referred to as town-line road) to Pinecone Road in the City. We know the importance of making this connection for township residents, city residents, our school system, students, and future development.

Beyond the importance and high priority of the project, we know and understand that the likelihood of the construction of this road will not happen until we can secure funding. The City has committed funds to the project, but the overall project cost is simply too much for a township or city to bare alone. We encourage Congressional Designation of this vital project within the City of Sartell and LeSauk Township.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel J. Heim". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Daniel J. Heim
LeSauk Town Board Chair

November 22.,2021

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Sartell is again pursuing funding that will help ensure the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists within our community. The funding is being sought for an area that would make an east to west connection within the community.

Currently the area in question funnels traffic on interior roadways that have a 30-mph speed limit and we receive numerous complaints of excessive speeding and poor driving in general on those roadways (13th Ave, 19th Ave and Grizzly Lane). The city has attempted some improvements on these roadways such as additional signage and/or striping to better delineate lane use which has had some minor improvement but not to the degree that an east/west connecting roadway constructed for that daily traffic flow would have.

The Sartell Police Department supports the City in its endeavor to extend 15th St. N from its current location. I know that this additional roadway will dramatically improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike.

Your assistance in moving the grant approval forward would be appreciated by many in our community, including the police department which is tasked with keeping both the motoring and pedestrian community safe.

Sincerely,

Jim Hughes
Chief of Police

December 15th, 2021

City of Sartell
City Hall
125 Pinecone Road North
Sartell, MN 56377

Attn: Anna Gruber, Sartell City Administrator
Re: Lobbying for Additional Funding for 15th Street North Project

Hello Anna,

I understand that the City of Sartell will be applying for funding to help finance local city roadways for our community. Thank you so much for your attention to this and bringing this to our community's attention during our past neighborhood meetings. The City staff, including yourself, have done an excellent job educating our neighborhoods and community the past 18 months on how city roads and transportation improvement projects are funded and prioritized.

I write to you today, with the noted support of my neighbors, that we want to continue lobbying for additional funding to support improving our community's roads, specifically the 15th Street North Project. Taking advantage of available grant monies and other funding opportunities is critical for a community of our size to help make our roads and transportation avenues safer and more efficient.

As you know, our community is growing at a rapid pace. New beautiful neighborhoods are being developed and new families are moving in. Traffic is increasing at a rapid rate to get to the north side of town. This is due much in part due to the new Sartell High School, Oakridge Ridge Elementary, city parks/school district ball fields, expanding neighborhoods, Blackberry Ridge Public Golf Course and Pinecone Road North being used as a primary commuter road out of town for residents heading north on the weekends.

Below are a few bullet points that support why we believe improving our local neighborhood roads is critical for neighborhood safety. Specifically, why we believe that prioritizing the 15th Street North collector road is at the top of our priority list.

- **Traffic Volume Increase: Neighborhood roads not designed or intended to be collector roads are now serving that purpose** – Grizzly Lane and 13th Ave N are a couple examples of this. An increase in traffic to get to the north side of town and lack of side walks are creating very dangerous pedestrian safety situations. These two roads are serving as collector roads connecting large neighborhoods, many with new young drivers. We refuse to walk on our neighbor street (Grizzly Ln) or play in our front yard with our young children due to the danger Grizzly Lane traffic causes.
- **Poor Pavement Conditions: Neighborhood roads standard maintenance schedules are not enough** – Our neighborhood roads are in such poor condition due to potholes, large cracks/bumps, exposed sewer lines/manholes are disrupting regular traffic flow. This causes drivers to drive through our local roads as if they are driving through an obstacle course. Drivers are distracted by poor road conditions opposed to pedestrian safety.

- **Lack of sidewalks/pedestrian right of ways** – Regional collector roads I understand should be capable of handling auto traffic but also pedestrian traffic as well. My assumption is that the 15th Street North collector road would have appropriate lighting and a walking path or sidewalk.
- **Travel time across town: North to South and East to West-** The City of Sartell needs larger collector routes that the obvious path of least resistance. Today’s drivers seem to be more distracted and more in a hurry. Creating a regional collector road to accommodate a smooth and safer commute for drivers and pedestrians to alleviate risk in our neighborhood roads should be our top priority when planning and all road improvements.
- **Crashes and Minor Accidents: Increase in both and at risk for more severe** – The Sartell Police and Public Safety Department’s analytics and metrics should be reviewed when prioritizing roadway projects. Central Park Boulevard and Pinecone Road North are the only east/west routes on the north side of town and the volume puts those roads at risk for being a cause for more accidents and pedestrians. Adding an additional regional collector road that runs east/west can lessen this risk. We have discussed in the past that public safety reports have gone up on the north side of town due to traffic violations or increased volume.

Thank you so much for taking the time to review these concerns that have been expressed in many of our neighborhood meetings, city hall meetings, HOA meetings and resident task force meetings. The below signed names are my own and my fellow Sartell residents and neighbors that share the same sentiment in this letter and all advocate for the City of Sartell to prioritize additional funding for the 15th Street North project. Our own, children and neighborhood safety depend on it. Thank you!

Best Regards,

Colin Anderson
1705 Grizzly Lane

Zieske 1709 Grizzly Ln	Kurzahls 1701 Grizzly Ln	Kenning 1702 Grizzly Ln
Johnson 1701 8 th St N	Jansky 1501 Grizzly Ln	Anderson 1425 Grizzly Ln
Stommes 705 16 th Ave N	Thronaum 815 15 th Ave N	Morrison 1417 Grizzly Ln
The Wilds of Sartell HOA 1507 Grizzly Ln	Martini 1416 Grizzly Ln	Degiovanni 1812 8 th St N
Windsperger 828 15 th Ave N	Meirick 1413 Cougar Ct	Schaff 1417 Cougar Ct
Dingman 1417 Eagles Nest Ct	Smith 1523 Cougar Ln	Christensen 1502 9 th St N