



Office of County Commissioners
Carver County Government Center
Human Services Building
602 East Fourth Street
Chaska, MN 55318-1202
Phone: 952 361-1510
Fax: 952 361-1581

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Dean Phillips
United States House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter of Support for 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project

Dear Representative Phillips:

Carver County respectfully requests consideration of a 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending request to further advance project development for the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project. This funding request builds on the 2022 funded project activities and is for the next project phase of final design and right of way purchase.

Highway 5 serves a major east-west connection between Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria, Waconia and Norwood Young America for both regional commuter and freight traffic and also provides primary access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 visitors per year. The corridor serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway creating significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average and the corridor lacks consistent bicycle and pedestrian facilities which limits alternative modes of transportation.

Carver County partnered with neighboring cities, MnDOT, and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to identify transportation system improvements in the Arboretum Area on Highway 5, to serve safe and efficient multi modal travel. The Arboretum Area Transportation Plan recommends improving Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway to reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, improve safety for all users, and reconnect the significant wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta by bridging over this area. Completing this project will provide improved safety, mobility, community connectivity, environmental sustainability, and quality of life, all while accommodating planned growth.

Carver County will provide funding towards the local match and partner with MnDOT on the project. The Carver County Board of Commissioners supports the submittal of the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project for consideration of Congressionally Directed Spending funding for corridor improvements that will benefit the safe and efficient travel for all users through the Arboretum Area, Carver County, and the region.

Sincerely,


Commissioner Gayle Degler, Chair
Carver County Board of Commissioners



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Carver County Government Center
Human Services Building
602 East Fourth Street
Chaska, MN 55318-1202
Phone: 952 361-1510
Fax: 952 361-1581

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Senator Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests from Carver County

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Carver County respectfully requests consideration of two 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending funding requests for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project.

This US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project request builds on State, Federal, and local funding already secured including the 2022 Community Project funding and is critical in fully funding the project vision for construction in 2024. Carver County, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is seeking funds to reconstruct US Highway 212 from a two-lane rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway between Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) and Cologne (County Highway 36). The proposed improvements will remove barriers to efficient freight movement and job opportunities, support economic vitality by providing development opportunities at key locations, preserve and remedy existing infrastructure, and improve mobility and safety for all corridor users. The addition of this funding will specifically ensure the full project vision of a grade separated intersection at Highway 212 and County Highway 51 can be implemented with 2024 construction.

The Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project funding request builds on the 2022 funded project development activities and is for the next project phase of final design and right of way purchase. Highway 5 serves a major east-west connection between Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria, Waconia and Norwood Young America for both regional commuter and freight traffic and also provides primary access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 visitors per year. The corridor serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway creating significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average. Completing this project will provide improved safety, mobility, community connectivity, environmental sustainability, and quality of life, all while accommodating planned growth.

Carver County will provide funding towards the local match for both projects and partner with MnDOT to contribute to the overall local match and project funding as identified in the project information. The Carver County Board of Commissioners supports the submittal of US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project for consideration of Congressionally Directed Spending funding for corridor improvements that will benefit the safe and efficient travel for all users in Carver County, Minnesota, and the region.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Gayle Degler, Chair
Carver County Board of Commissioners



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Carver County Government Center
Human Services Building
602 East Fourth Street
Chaska, MN 55318-1202
Phone: 952 361-1510
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April 11, 2022

The Honorable Senator Tina Smith
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests from Carver County

Dear Senator Smith:

Carver County respectfully requests consideration of two 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending funding requests for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project.

This US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project request builds on State, Federal, and local funding already secured including the 2022 Community Project funding and is critical in fully funding the project vision for construction in 2024. Carver County, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is seeking funds to reconstruct US Highway 212 from a two-lane rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway between Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) and Cologne (County Highway 36). The proposed improvements will remove barriers to efficient freight movement and job opportunities, support economic vitality by providing development opportunities at key locations, preserve and remedy existing infrastructure, and improve mobility and safety for all corridor users. The addition of this funding will specifically ensure the full project vision of a grade separated intersection at Highway 212 and County Highway 51 can be implemented with 2024 construction.

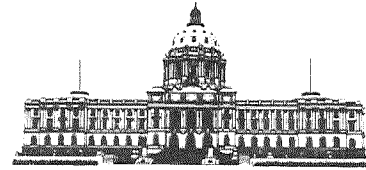
The Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project funding request builds on the 2022 funded project development activities and is for the next project phase of final design and right of way purchase. Highway 5 serves a major east-west connection between Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria, Waconia and Norwood Young America for both regional commuter and freight traffic and also provides primary access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 visitors per year. The corridor serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway creating significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average. Completing this project will provide improved safety, mobility, community connectivity, environmental sustainability, and quality of life, all while accommodating planned growth.

Carver County will provide funding towards the local match for both projects and partner with MnDOT to contribute to the overall local match and project funding as identified in the project information. The Carver County Board of Commissioners supports the submittal of US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project for consideration of Congressionally Directed Spending funding for corridor improvements that will benefit the safe and efficient travel for all users in Carver County, Minnesota, and the region.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Gayle Degler, Chair
Carver County Board of Commissioners

Senator Julia Coleman



April 8, 2021

Representative Dean Phillips
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
45 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20515

Senate

State of Minnesota

Dear Rep. Phillips:

The proposed Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway, which creates significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5x the state average. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, and improve safety for all users. The bridged design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta.

I recognize the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. The extreme congestion and high crash rates create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities. Attracting growth and businesses to our community depends on a reliable transportation system. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multimodal access to these regional destinations.

I fully support Carver County's community project request for Highway 5 improvements. For more than two years, we have worked with the county, MnDOT, and other municipalities to identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area. The improvements for Highway 5 will improve safety and mobility for the thousands of people who use this corridor every day.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my support for this crucial transportation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Coleman".

Julia Coleman
State Senator
State of Minnesota



Representative Greg Boe

District 47B

Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria



Minnesota House of Representatives

April 8, 2021

RE: Support for Highway 5 Community Project Request

Representative Dean Phillips
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
45 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Phillips:

The proposed MN Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic, as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Currently, Hwy 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway, which creates significant congestion, resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, and improve safety for all users. The bridge design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta, thereby creating improved water quality in that body of water.

I do recognize and understand the value of these proposed improvements on Highway 5. The extreme congestion and high crash rates along Highway 5 currently create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities metro. Attracting growth and businesses to our community depends on a reliable transportation system. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multimodal access to these regional destinations. I am proud to support Carver County's community project request for Highway 5 improvements. I have worked with the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition for many years, seeking improvements for Hwy 212 and Hwy 5 in our communities.

For more than two years, we have worked in collaboration with Carver County, MnDOT, and other local municipalities to identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area, including Highway 5. The improvements for Highway 5 will improve safety and mobility for the thousands of people who use this corridor every day. Please support our request for safer driving for our families and children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Boe".

MN State Representative Greg Boe
District 47B – Chanhassen, Chaska, and Victoria



April 6, 2021

Representative Dean Phillips
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
45 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Phillips:

Highway 5 in Carver County serves the region as a major freight and commuter corridor, providing primary access to University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, as well as providing access to many businesses in this fast-growing area.

Over 27,000 vehicles travel on Highway 5 every day including 800 commercial vehicles. This corridor will experience 950 hours of annual delay during peak periods by 2040. A major problem for this highway is safety. Over a five-year period, there were 187 crashes, 47 of those with injuries. The crash rate is two and a half times the statewide average for similar corridors.

The Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition, which includes local governments in the area, businesses, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and many concerned citizens is supporting the Arboretum Area Transportation Plan that will begin to address these issues on Highway 5.

The Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition urges you to support Carver County's request for \$2M for design and environmental work for Highway 5 from Minnewashta Parkway to Highway 41. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent while providing multimodal facilities, and improving safety for all users. The bridge design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta.

The quality of life for thousands of Minnesotans will be enhanced with the completion of needed safety and mobility improvements on Highway 5. As the area continues to grow, we will need these improvements to support amenities like the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Thank you for your support of needed improvements to the transportation infrastructure Minnesotans rely on every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Randy Maluchnik'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Maluchnik, President



**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155**

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Dean Phillips
United States House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter for Congressional Interest for Community or Member Directed Projects

Dear Representative Phillips:

This letter is in reference to the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project in Carver County. This is a locally led project by Carver County on MnDOT's Trunk Highway System. The goals of the project are to improve mobility, travelers' safety and multimodal connections. The project will expand a portion of a two-lane section of Highway 5 to a four-lane expressway between Minnewashta Parkway and TH 41, as well as intersection capacity improvements for the TH 5/TH 41 intersection.

Currently, the total project cost estimate is \$44 million. Carver County has \$17 million in funds and was awarded a grant from the Metropolitan Council's Regional Solicitation for mobility and access improvements. The project will be programmed in 2025 in Minnesota's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). It is MnDOT's assumption that the local agency will be responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps. This project is planned for construction starting in 2025.

MnDOT is committed to partnering with Carver County as they develop this project and explore other funding opportunities for improving this transportation need.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Margaret Anderson Kelliher'.

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation

cc: Angie Stenson, Senior Transportation Planner, Carver County
Sergius Phillips, Federal Liaison, MnDOT
Michael Barnes, Metro District Engineer, MnDOT
Chris Kufner, Deputy State Aid Engineer, MnDOT
Dan Erickson, Metro District State Aid Engineer

April 8, 2021

Representative Dean Phillips
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
45 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for Highway 5 Community Project Request

Dear Representative Phillips:

The proposed Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway, which creates significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average and lacks bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, and improve safety for all users. The bridged design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta.

The University recognizes and understands the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. Reconnecting the wetlands will improve the natural habitat of the area, which connects to the Arboretum. The intersection improvements at Highway 5 and Minnewashta Parkway will create safer traveling conditions. The proposed relocated access for the Arboretum to this intersection will minimize queues and improve traffic flow as well. We are dedicated to continuing to work with the County as design of the intersection proceeds to provide an improved experience for our Arboretum guests.

The University of Minnesota supports Carver County's community project request for Highway 5 improvements. For more than two years, the University has worked with Carver County and local municipalities to identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area, including Highway 5. The improvements for Highway 5 will improve safety and mobility for the thousands of people who use this corridor every day.

Sincerely,



Peter C. Moe
Director



CITY OF CHASKA
ONE CITY HALL PLAZA / CHASKA MN 55318-1962

April 7, 2021

Lydon Irobjent
Director of Public Works, Carver County
600 East 4th St
Chaska, MN 55318

RE: Support for Highway 5 Community Project Request

Dear Lydon:

The proposed Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway, which creates significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, and improve safety for all users. The bridged design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta.

The City of Chaska recognizes and understands the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. The extreme congestion and high crash rates along Highway 5 currently create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities metro. Attracting growth and businesses to our community depends on a reliable transportation system. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multimodal access to these regional destinations.

The City of Chaska supports Carver County's community project request for Highway 5 improvements. For more than two years, we have worked with Carver County, MnDOT, and other local municipalities to identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area, including Highway 5. The improvements for Highway 5 will improve safety and mobility for the thousands of people who use this corridor every day.

Sincerely,

Mark Windschitl
Mayor

City of Victoria

1670 Stieger Lake Lane
P.O. Box 36
Victoria, MN 55386
952.443.4210

April 5, 2021

The Honorable Dean Phillips
2452 Rayburn HOB
45 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Highway 5 Community Project Request

Dear Representative Phillips:

The proposed Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway, which creates significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, and improve safety for all users. The bridged design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta.

The City of Victoria recognizes and understands the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. The extreme congestion and high crash rates along Highway 5 currently create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities metro. Attracting growth and businesses to our community depends on a reliable transportation system. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multimodal access to these regional destinations.

The City of Victoria supports Carver County's community project request for Highway 5 improvements. For more than two years, we have worked with Carver County, MnDOT, and other local municipalities to identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area, including Highway 5. The improvements for Highway 5 will improve safety and mobility for the thousands of people who use this corridor every day.

Sincerely,



Debra McMillan
Mayor



April 7, 2021

Congressman Dean Phillips
2452 Rayburn HOB
45 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Highway 5 Community Project Request

Dear Congressman Phillips:

The proposed Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway, which creates significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, and improve safety for all users. The bridged design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta.

The City of Norwood Young America recognizes and understands the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. The extreme congestion and high crash rates along Highway 5 currently create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities metro. Attracting growth and businesses to our community depends on a reliable transportation system. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multimodal access to these regional destinations.

The City of Norwood Young America supports Carver County's community project request for Highway 5 improvements. For more than two years, we have worked with Carver County, MnDOT, and other local municipalities to identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area, including Highway 5. The improvements for Highway 5 will improve safety and mobility for the thousands of people who use this corridor every day.

Sincerely,

Carol Lagergren

Carol Lagergren
Mayor

Norwood Young America



City of Waconia

April 5th, 2021

Jackie Schulze
Interim City Administrator, City of Waconia
201 South Vine Street
City of Waconia, MN 55387

RE: Support for Highway 5 Community Project Request

Dear Congressman Phillips:

The proposed Highway 5 project provides significant benefits to regional commuter and freight traffic as well as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and its 500,000 annual visitors. Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day on a two-lane roadway, which creates significant congestion and resulting in a crash rate 2.5 times the state average. The proposed project will expand Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway and reduce vehicle delay up to 80 percent, provide multimodal facilities, and improve safety for all users. The bridged design over the wetlands that surround the corridor will reconnect the wetland complexes supporting Lake Minnewashta.

The City of Waconia recognizes and understands the value of the proposed improvements on Highway 5. The extreme congestion and high crash rates along Highway 5 currently create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities metro. Attracting growth and businesses to our community depends on a reliable transportation system. Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand multimodal access to these regional destinations.

The City of Waconia supports Carver County's community project request for Highway 5 improvements. For more than two years, we have worked with Carver County, MnDOT, and other local municipalities to

City Hall
201 South Vine Street
Waconia, MN 55387
952-442-2184

Public Services
310 10th Street East
Waconia, MN 55387
952-442-2615

Fire Station
26 Maple Street South
Waconia, MN 55387
952-442-2316

Safari Island Community Center
1600 Community Drive
Waconia, MN 55387
952-442-0695

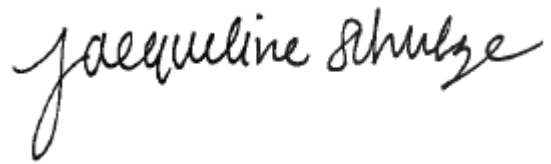
Ice Arena
1250 Oak Avenue
Waconia, MN 55387
952-442-RINK (7465)

www.waconia.org

Page 2

identify transportation improvements through the Arboretum area, including Highway 5. The improvements for Highway 5 will improve safety and mobility for the thousands of people who use this corridor every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "jacqueline schulze". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jackie Schulze

Interim City Administrator