



February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to support the RAISE Grant funding application for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project in Duluth and Rice Lake, Minnesota. This project is a collaborative effort between St. Louis County and the City of Rice Lake to improve transportation while supporting job and residential development opportunities.

Improving Rice Lake Rd and the other intersecting county roads along the project corridor is critical to the regional economy. Constructing roundabouts and implementing access management strategies will improve traffic flow, and adding a new city street and paved walking and biking trails will improve safety and accessibility.

Recently incorporated in 2015, the City of Rice Lake has identified Rice Lake Rd as the corridor that will support its future commercial and mixed-use development in its Comprehensive Plan published in 2020. Rice Lake Rd is a key transportation corridor that serves the Twin Ports Metropolitan area. Completing these roadway improvements is critical to realizing the vision of new development in Rice Lake.

This project will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop a new community that supports business and residential development, creates jobs, can help address our region's housing shortage and supports the quality of life our region provides. I am committed to supporting St. Louis County as it works to improve the mobility and safety of transportation in the Rice Lake community.

Thank you for your interest and support in improving Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bodine
President + Partner
Giant Voices