



RESOLUTION 24-20

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RICE LAKE RD (CSAH4) CORRIDOR PROJECT

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) is a regionally significant roadway that serves the city of Rice Lake and the greater Twin Ports metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) is currently experiencing tension between multiple factors such as the roadway function, traffic operations and safety, controlled access designation, requests for access and designation by the City of Rice Lake's Comprehensive Plan that the city's commercial development be centered on Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4); and

WHEREAS, if nothing is done to address these competing factors, this vision for development will likely not be fully realized and traffic operations and safety will continue to deteriorate thus harming the transportation utility of Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) which will result in negative spillover effects to the greater Twin Ports metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, in response, St. Louis County has been cooperatively working with the City of Rice Lake on the development of the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project, located within the cities of Duluth and Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this project is to better balance these competing factors through a comprehensive project that improves the local transportation network by respecting the function of Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4), improves traffic operations and safety, constructs new street infrastructure, constructs trails to support a multi-modal transportation system and supports future development through sustainable access management strategies; and

WHEREAS, the future success of Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) is expected to benefit the residents and businesses located within the City of Rice Lake and the greater Twin Ports metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is seeking funding for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project through the MPDG Program which is grant program included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); and

WHEREAS, if awarded funding, the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project will require cost participation by the City of Rice Lake which will be mutually determined later and will construct new city street infrastructure which will be owned by the City of Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, if awarded funding, St. Louis County would lead the project and be responsible for design engineering, environmental documentation and permitting, right-of-way acquisition, bidding and construction engineering and administration at the cost of St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, both St. Louis County and City of Rice Lake would each be responsible for the cost of right-of-way that is necessary to be acquired for the construction of their respective roadway infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Rice Lake supports St. Louis County's vision to improve the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) corridor.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the City of Rice Lake supports St. Louis County's MPDG Program funding application for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the City of Rice Lake commits to cooperatively working with St. Louis County to provide municipal consent for the future Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project.

RESOLVED FURTHER, Rice Lake will also work with St. Louis County for any potential cost overruns and seek additional funding options to cover the overruns.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the City of Rice Lake agrees to assume full ownership and responsibility for the operation and maintenance of new city street infrastructure constructed under this grant.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Rice Lake City Council, St. Louis County, Minnesota, this 22nd day of April 2024.

CITY OF RICE LAKE



Suzanne Herstad, Mayor



Toni Blomdahl, City Administrator