



**CARVER  
COUNTY**

*minnesota*

Carver County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting with Congressman Phillips  
May 6, 2019  
County Board Room  
Carver County Government Center  
Human Services Building  
Chaska, Minnesota

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3:30 p.m.      Congressman Phillips Meeting Agenda ..... 1-3

David Hemze  
County Administrator

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

May 7, 2019	9:00 a.m. Board Meeting
May 14, 2019	No Board Meeting
May 21, 2019	4:00 p.m. Board Meeting
May 28, 2019	8:30 a.m. Strategic Planning Meeting with Division Directors
June 4, 2019	9:00 a.m. Board Meeting



**Agenda—Carver County Federal Legislative Priorities**

**Monday, May 6, 3:30 p.m.**

**Carver County Board Room • Carver County Government Center**

**Human Services Building**

**602 East 4th Street • Chaska, MN 55318**

- I. Introductions
- II. Comments by Congressman Phillips
- III. Carver County Federal Legislative Priorities
  1. U.S. Highway 212
  2. Veterans Administration scanning timeline
- IV. Other issues
- V. Visit Carver County Veteran Services Office

## Issue #1: U.S. Highway 212

Part of the National Highway System, U.S. Highway 212 serves as one of the most important economic and freight corridors in the state connecting the Twin Cities to points west. Highway 212 provides a critical connection for businesses throughout the state. There are two major bottlenecks on the highway in Carver County between Norwood Young America and Chaska.

**The Issue:** Highway 212 is four lanes from Norwood Young America to Chaska, with two notable exceptions of a pair of two-lane gaps about five miles each. These exceptions cause major safety and traffic-flow problems.

### The Consequences:

- Significant bottleneck for freight:
  - 1,900 trucks per day on two-lane road
- Significant safety issues - narrow shoulders, no passing lanes, limited turn lanes
  - Nine fatalities since 2009 on two-lane segments, four in the past three years

### Solution: 2 expansion projects needed:

#### 1. Chaska to Cologne – 4 miles (Built in 1930)

- Total Cost = \$46.5 million
- Awarded \$15 million in Minnesota Highway Freight Program funds (Federal)
- Budgeted \$13 million from MnDOT preservation funds
- Set aside \$8 million plus from Carver County sales tax
- \$7 Million from the Metropolitan Council regional solicitation
- **GAP = \$3.5 million**

#### 2. Cologne to Norwood Young America – 5 miles (Built in 1929)

- Total Cost = \$65 million
- Estimated \$15 million from MnDOT preservation funds
- Estimated \$12 million from Carver County sales tax
- **GAP = \$38 million**

### Request

- Carver County submitted a Federal INFRA grant for \$42 million on March 4
- Visited with Federal delegation and U.S. DOT in March
- Request follow up on application status with Secretary of DOT in May

## **Issue #2: Veterans Administrations Scanning/Timing Issue**

- Veteran's claims are sent from County offices to VA Regional Office (St. Paul) to scanning facility in Wisconsin.
- Scanning facility takes **6-7 weeks** to process.
- Veterans are given 60 days to submit claim, so any delay on their end results in claim registering as "Failure to Prosecute" and the claim is denied.
- VA is reporting excellent claims processing time because they're denying claims at an alarming rate.

### **Request**

- VA scan times need to be 14 days or less to alleviate this issue to support our veterans and expediate the VA claims process.