



395 John Ireland Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

February 27, 2024

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

Re: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application for the Trunk Highway 5 Improvements Project in Carver County, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is in reference to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application for the Trunk Highway 5 Improvements Project in Carver County, Minnesota. This project is a locally led project on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Trunk Highway System. It will address a highly congested route with above average crash rates, building a safe pedestrian system and reestablishing natural and recreational resources in the area. The highway serves a vehicle demand 50% above the threshold of a two-lane highway. The project will expand Trunk Highway 5 to a four-lane roadway, reduce vehicle delay up to 80% and improve safety for all users. It will also replace an existing land bridge with a bridge design that reconnects the surrounding wetlands and Lake Minnewashta. Other safety and mobility improvements include new pedestrian underpasses in several locations to connect a regional route and other existing regional trails.

The current total project cost estimate is \$114 million. Carver County has been awarded \$22 million from Regional Solicitation awards, \$20 million in Minnesota State Bonding and MnDOT has committed \$5.8 million. MnDOT currently has a pavement project for this highway included in the Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). It is MnDOT's assumption at this time that the local agency will be responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps beyond MnDOT's commitment. This project is planned for construction in 2025. MnDOT looks forward to continued cooperation with Carver County as this effort moves forward to improve 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 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.  
Commissioner

cc: Ashley Hudson, Principal Transportation Planner, Bolton & Menk, Inc.  
Khani Sahebjam, District Engineer, Metro District, Minnesota Department of Transportation

AMY KLOBUCHAR  
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,  
AND FORESTRY  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
United States Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Carver County, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

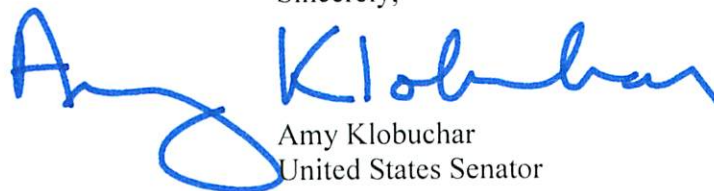
I write in support of Carver County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program. If awarded, funding would support the Highway 5 Improvements Project, which would address critical access, capacity, and safety concerns on U.S. Highway 5 in Carver County.

Located southwest of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area, Carver County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the state. As one of the primary arterial routes in Carver County, U.S. Highway 5 is a key interregional corridor that plays an essential role in supporting commuters, freight movement, and recreational travel. It is vital to the local economy and provides access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport; connecting rural communities in western Minnesota to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area and beyond.

However, U.S. Highway 5 is currently an outdated two lane highway that serves over 27,000 vehicles a day, causing nearly 90 vehicular accidents over the last decade. Not only does this create safety and congestion concerns, but it also negatively impacts economic development and growth along the corridor. Funding from the RAISE program would be used to expand U.S. Highway 5 from an undivided two lane highway to a four lane divided highway in Chanhassen, Minnesota. Completing this project would significantly enhance traffic operations and safety in the region, boost mobility, reduce congestion, and spur economic development in the area. If approved, the Highway 5 Improvements Project would support the needs of Minnesotans by cutting commute times, boosting businesses and tourism in the region, and improving public safety.

Again, I support Carver County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program. If you have any questions, please contact Rommel Lee in my Minnesota office at (612) 727-5220 or by email at [Rommel\\_Lee@Klobuchar.Senate.Gov](mailto:Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.Senate.Gov).

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

# CITY OF VICTORIA

Victoria, MN  Est. 1915

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Victoria, I extend support for the Highway 5 Improvements Project that will address a state highway route plagued with congestion and safety issues between the Cities of Victoria and Chanhassen, while also making significant investments to build out a continuous and safe pedestrian system and reestablish vital natural and recreational resources in the project area.

Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day—including 800 heavy commercial vehicles—per day, currently serving a demand 50 percent above the threshold of a two-lane section. This is 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. Within the City, Highway 5 is the main connector between Victoria's Downtown core and future growth areas to the regional area. Implementing the Highway 5 Improvements Project will help protect the vitality of the downtown area and support appropriate new commercial and residential development.

Additionally, our residents value the immense environmental amenities of Lake Minnewashta, the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and the regional trail network. This project will expand continuous multimodal access, separated from highway traffic to these regional destinations.

The City of Victoria is a financial contributor to the Highway 5 Improvements Project. For nearly five years now, the project partners have been hard at work developing a shared vision to improve safety and mobility for all. We are united and bring forth this project that has been developed by the community through strong engagement and partnerships. We request your support in this investment which allows the region to realize our full potential.

Sincerely,



Cara L. Geheren, P.E.  
City Engineer





# CITY OF CHANHASSEN

Chanhassen is a Community for Life - Providing for Today and Planning for Tomorrow

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Chanhassen, I extend support for the Highway 5 Improvements Project that will address a state highway route plagued with congestion and safety issues between the Cities of Victoria and Chanhassen, while also making significant investments to build out a continuous and safe pedestrian system and reestablish vital natural and recreational resources in the project area.

Currently, Highway 5 serves 27,000 vehicles per day, including 800 heavy commercial vehicles, serving a demand 50% above the threshold of a two-lane highway section. This is 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% and improve safety for all users. Project improvements and development have been very sensitive to the surrounding resources. For example, the partners are investing in replacing an existing earth embankment with a bridge that will reconnect the surrounding wetlands and Lake Minnewashta.

Carver County is the fastest growing county in the State of Minnesota. The extreme congestion and high crash rates along the corridor currently create challenges for our residents to access jobs and services in the Twin Cities metro. During peak hours significant congestion and backups make local access on and off Highway 5 unsafe and nearly impossible with very limited gaps in traffic.

The City of Chanhassen is a financial contributor to the Highway 5 Improvements Project. For nearly five years the project partners have been hard at work developing a shared vision. We are united and bring forth this project that has been developed by the community through strong engagement and partnerships.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Howley, PE, LEED AP

Public Works Director/City Engineer



February 16, 2024

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

Secretary Buttigieg:

As the region's metropolitan planning organization, the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities region is pleased to support Carver County's Highway 5 Improvements project for consideration under the US Department of Transportation (DOT) RAISE grant program. The project will address the remaining two-lane segment of Trunk Highway 5 which experiences significant congestion and safety issues between the cities of Victoria and Chanhassen and make significant investments to build out a continuous and safe pedestrian system and reestablish vital natural and recreational resources in the project area.

Highway 5 is an important corridor for commuters, transit access, tourism and recreational travelers, and freight access. The corridor currently carries 27,000 vehicles per day including 800 heavy commercial vehicles. Severe congestion frequently creates queues nearly two miles long and reduces traffic speeds nearly 40 percent. Due to the congestion and lack of acceptable gaps in traffic, many drivers and pedestrians accept smaller gaps to cross Highway 5 traffic, increasing the safety concerns along the corridor. Between 2014 and 2018, there were 187 crashes on the corridor, which is 2.5 times higher than the state average for similar roadways.

This project aligns with the regional goals and priorities of the current Transportation Policy Plan and the project was developed in partnership with all impacted agencies. For such reasons, the project was successful in securing \$22 million in three separate grants through the region's federal funding process known as Regional Solicitation. This includes a \$10 million PROTECT award that recognizes the projects sustainable design solutions.

The Metropolitan Council is committed to amending the Transportation Improvement Program and long-range transportation plan, as needed, to include this project. The Metropolitan Council is in full support of Carver County's RAISE Grant application, and we look forward to working with the county and all other project partners to successfully deliver these important improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Carlson".

[Charles Carlson \(Feb 16, 2024 11:06 CST\)](#)

Charles Carlson  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Division Director  
Metropolitan Council