



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

March 16, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project's application for the 2021 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Program. The project is a regional priority and expands 2.5 miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minn., from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from County State Aid Highway 51 to CSAH 36 in the City of Cologne. Carver County and MnDOT completed extensive corridor planning and are partnering on project development efforts to bring forward this innovative, cost-effective approach to expand US Highway 212.

The corridor is part of the National Highway System and provides a critical connection for agricultural and industrial traffic to and from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. MnDOT has identified US Highway 212 in the Minnesota State Freight Investment Plan as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor.

The US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project addresses serious safety, access and mobility issues, and significantly contributes to the priority objectives established by the USDOT. The project will benefit the highway freight network by addressing deficiencies on a Critical Rural Freight Corridor, implementing significant highway safety measures, improving the state of good repair for National Highway System infrastructure that has not been fully reconstructed since 1929, and strengthening local and regional economic competitiveness and vitality by realizing the vision of a reliable and connected freight transportation system.

MnDOT is committed to funding project development costs including design and right of way through state bond funding as well as Construction Administration services, estimated at approximately \$2 million. In addition, MnDOT is committed to maintaining the new facility for the length of its useful life and will partner with Carver County on any relevant maintenance agreements during project development.

MnDOT looks forward to continued cooperation with Carver County as this project moves forward.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret Anderson Kelliher  
Commissioner