

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

May 17, 2022

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

RE: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

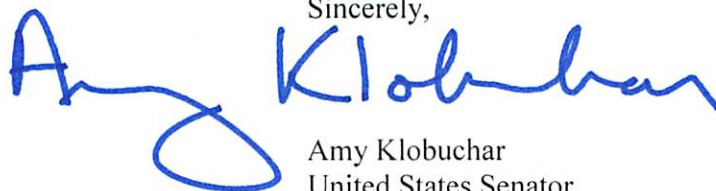
I write in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program. If awarded, funding would be used to replace and rehabilitate nine bridges along the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor in the city of Austin, Minnesota.

Interstate 90 is the longest interstate highway in the United States and traverses through 13 states, connecting countless urban and rural communities across the country. Located in southern Minnesota, the city of Austin is a thriving industrial center that features a diverse residential community, a robust economy, state-of-the-art medical facilities, and retail, commercial, and tourist attractions. The city of Austin and its surrounding communities represent one of the fastest growing regions in southern Minnesota. In order to accommodate the significant growth in the region, improvements to infrastructure are necessary.

Funding from the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program would be used to replace or rehabilitate nine bridges along the I-90 corridor in Austin. The existing bridges along the corridor are in dire need of maintenance and repair, and are at the end of their useful design life. As a result, these bridges have caused countless operational and safety issues for commuters, freight movement, and commercial vehicles. Completing this project would support the needs of rural Minnesotans by improving and modernizing the regional transportation network in southern Minnesota.

Again, I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant 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.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



MOWER COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

201 1st Street NE, Suite 9, Austin, Minnesota 55912
Phone: 507-437-9549 Fax: 507-437-9458

May 10, 2022

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 MPDG Program: I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project in Austin, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. The MPDG funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement/rehabilitation of nine bridges along the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor in the city of Austin, MN. The Project also improves roadway connections along the corridor to address safe operations of vehicular and freight traffic as well as constructs new multimodal connections across I-90 to bridge the existing barriers in connectivity in the region.

I-90 is the longest interstate highway in the US and traverses through 13 states, connecting several urban and rural communities. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving industrial community, housing development of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. As one of the fastest growing regions in south central Minnesota, infrastructure improvements in Austin are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The existing bridges along the I-90 project corridor are at the end of their useful design life, which causes several operational and safety issues for the roadway users, freight haulers, and businesses along the corridor. These issues include structurally deficient and/or functionally obsolete bridges with poor deck condition and geometry, insufficient vertical clearances, and significant scour conditions at under water piers, among others. There are also significant crash and congestion issues due to narrow bridges, insufficient sight lines, and traffic queuing. The absence of ADA accessible multiuse paths across I-90 is a huge barrier to multimodal connectivity for the community. The project will address all the transportation challenges noted above and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs. Additionally, the project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals and statutory project requirements of the MPDG opportunity.

John Mueller
1st District

Polly Chair
2nd District

Jerry Reinartz
3rd District

Jeff Baldus, Chair
4th District

Mike Ankeny, Vice-Chair
5th District

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Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
May 10, 2022

The rehabilitation/replacement of nine bridges, associated roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Mower County and the City of Austin.

I support MnDOT's application for the funding of the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached directly at 507-279-0875 or through Mower County Administration at 507-437-9549.

Sincerely,



Jeff Baldus
Chair, Mower County Board of Commissioners

/dmb

From the Office of the Mayor



500 Fourth Avenue NE
Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773
Phone: 507-437-9965
Fax: 507-434-7197
www.ci.austin.mn.us

May 17, 2022

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 MPDG Program: I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project in Austin, MN

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From the Office of the Mayor



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absence of ADA accessible multiuse paths across I-90 is a huge barrier to multimodal connectivity for the community. The project will address all the transportation challenges noted above and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs. Additionally, the project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals and statutory project requirements of the MPDG opportunity.

These projects are of high impact for the City of Austin and our business owners, general public and traveling visitors. These bridges are in high traffic areas and therefore of high visibility and ensure a connected roadway system that is in sore need of upgrade. The rehabilitation/replacement of nine bridges, associated roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of the City of Austin for many decades to come.

I support MnDOT's application for the funding of the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (507) 437-9453.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Steve King". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "S" and "K".

Steve King
Mayor
City of Austin, MN



May 18, 2022

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 MPDG Program: I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project in Austin, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Austin Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. The MPDG funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement/rehabilitation of nine bridges along the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor in the city of Austin, MN. The Project also improves roadway connections along the corridor to address safe operations of vehicular and freight traffic as well as constructs new multimodal connections across I-90 to bridge the existing barriers in connectivity in the region.

I-90 is the longest interstate highway in the US and traverses through 13 states, connecting several urban and rural communities. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving industrial community, housing development of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. As one of the fastest growing regions in south central Minnesota, infrastructure improvements in Austin are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The existing bridges along the I-90 project corridor are at the end of their useful design life, which causes several operational and safety issues for the roadway users, freight haulers, and businesses along the corridor. These issues include structurally deficient and/or functionally obsolete bridges with poor deck condition and geometry, insufficient vertical clearances, and significant scour conditions at under water piers, among others. There are also significant crash and congestion issues due to narrow bridges, insufficient sight lines, and traffic queuing. The absence of ADA accessible multiuse paths across I-90 is a huge barrier to multimodal connectivity for the community. The project will address all the transportation challenges noted above and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs. Additionally, the project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals and statutory project requirements of the MPDG opportunity.

Austin is unique in that I-90 runs through the northern part of the city. There are hundreds of businesses and residences north of I-90 and also hundreds south of it. That creates an opportunity

and also an interesting challenge for connectivity and accessibility. The rehabilitation/replacement of nine bridges, associated roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of the Austin Area Chamber, itself.

I support MnDOT's application for the funding of the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at elaine@austincoc.com or (507) 437-4561.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Elaine Hansen
President
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce



Jeffrey Grev
Vice President of Government Affairs
Hormel Foods Corporation
1 Hormel Place
Austin MN 55912
507-437-5411
jagrev@hormel.com

May 19, 2022

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 MPDG Program: I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project in Austin, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. The MPDG funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement/rehabilitation of nine bridges along the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor in the city of Austin, MN. The Project also improves roadway connections along the corridor to address safe operations of vehicular and freight traffic as well as constructs new multimodal connections across I-90 to bridge the existing barriers in connectivity in the region.

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Austin, Minnesota is home to both the largest Hormel Foods production facility employing over 2,000 employees and is also the World Corporate Headquarters for Hormel Foods. All told, there are approximately 4,500 jobs that are generated by Hormel employees or that are directly connected to our operations in the area.

The rehabilitation/replacement of nine bridges, associated roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Hormel Foods.

I support MnDOT's application for the funding of the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at 507-437-5411.

We appreciate your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Grev

Jeffrey Grev
Vice President of Government Affairs
Hormel Foods Corporation



May 16, 2022

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Albert Lea and Austin

404 W. Fountain Street
Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007
507-373-2384

1000 First Drive NW
Austin, Minnesota 55912
507-433-7351

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 MPDG Program: I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project in Austin, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. The MPDG funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement/rehabilitation of nine bridges along the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor in the city of Austin, MN. The Project also improves roadway connections along the corridor to address safe operations of vehicular and freight traffic as well as constructs new multimodal connections across I-90 to bridge the existing barriers in connectivity in the region.

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The enhanced construction specifically benefits our patients and their accessibility to Mayo Clinic Health System clinic and hospital in Austin. In addition, the safety and design of the bridges will help ease access for our Mayo Clinic Ambulance operations in accessing the south part of the city from the ambulance garage on the north side, improving safety and bolstering confidence to reach patients needing emergency medical attention. The rehabilitation/replacement of nine bridges, associated roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections along the project corridor

Blooming Prairie
405 East Main
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
507-583-7225

Lake Mills
309 S. 10th Ave. E.
Lake Mills, IA 50450
641-592-2361

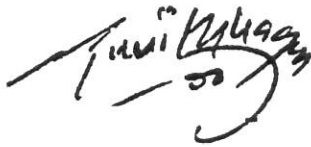
New Richland
318 First St. SW
New Richland, MN 56072
507-465-3216

Wells
301 S. Broadway Ave.
Wells, MN 56097
507-553-6341

will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin.

We support MnDOT's application for the funding of the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We may be reached at 507-434-1664.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sumit Bhagra". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back under the name.

Sumit Bhagra, M.D.
Site Physician Lead
Mayo Clinic Health System – Albert Lea and Austin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, elegant flourish.

Kris Johnson
Vice Chair, Administration
Mayo Clinic Health System – Albert Lea and Austin

May 13, 2022

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 MPDG Program: I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project in Austin, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota is a cancer and biomedical research facility located in Austin, MN. We regularly collaborate with Mayo Clinic in Rochester and many other leading research centers worldwide. The Hormel Institute is currently developing a Minnesota BioImaging Center which will expand on our current expertise in cryoelectron microscopy and structural biology. The Minnesota BioImaging Center will bring researchers from throughout Minnesota and the Midwest to Austin. The rehabilitation/replacement of nine bridges, associated roadway improvements, and

construction of new multimodal connections along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of The Hormel Institute itself.

I support MnDOT's application for the funding of the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at clarker@umn.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Clarke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Clarke, PhD, DSc
Executive Director
The Hormel Institute
IJ Holton Chair in Cancer Research
Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics
University of Minnesota