



Chaska

March 21, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Chaska is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This critical project expands five miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). 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 is one of the most important economic and freight highway corridors in the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. US Highway 212 is identified by the Minnesota DOT (MnDOT) in the Minnesota State Freight Investment Plan as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor. The corridor provides a connection for agricultural and industrial traffic to and from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, which is emphasized by the Metropolitan Council's prioritization of the highway as a "Tier One Truck Corridor".

The US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project addresses serious safety, access, and mobility issues and meets and exceeds the priority objectives of the DOT's grant programs. Most significantly, 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 not fully reconstructed since 1930, and strengthening local and regional economic competitiveness and vitality by realizing the vision of a reliable and connected freight transportation system.

The City of Chaska endorses and supports Carver County's application to US DOT Discretionary Grant Programs for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urges decision makers to prioritize the project for grant funding.

Sincerely,

Mark Windschitl
Mayor



Renville

COUNTY

Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

Randy Kramer, Chair
Renville County Board of Commissioners
Renville County Government Services Center
Suite 315
105 South 5th Street
Olivia, MN 56277-1484

Phone: 320-523-3710

March 22, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Renville County is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This critical project expands five miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). 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.

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Renville County endorses and supports Carver County's application to US DOT Discretionary Grant Programs for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urges decision makers to prioritize the project for grant funding.

Sincerely,

Randy Kramer
Renville County Board Chair

CITY OF HAMBURG
City Clerk - Treasurer
181 Broadway Ave., PO Box 248
Hamburg, MN 55339

City Office: (952) 467-3232 TDD: 711 Email: cityadmin@cityofhamburgmn.com
City Website: CityofHamburgmn.com

January 11, 2022

Mayor James Hovland, Chair
Transportation Advisory Board
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805

SUBJECT: 2040 Transportation Policy Plan 2020 Update Amendment Public Comment

Dear Chair Hovland and TAB Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan 2020 Update (Plan) Amendment under consideration by the Metropolitan Council, which identifies policies and plans to guide the development of the region's transportation system.

The proposed Plan Amendment includes the recommendation to add six highway freight projects to the Current Revenue Scenario. These freight projects were selected for funding as the result of MnDOT's Minnesota Highway Freight Program, a competitive statewide program that allocates federal transportation funding to construction projects on public roads that provide measurable freight transportation benefits.

The Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project in Carver County is one of the six freight projects selected in MnDOT's Minnesota Highway Freight Program for federal transportation funding with an award of \$7.5 million. The project will reconstruct and expand Highway 212 between Norwood Young America and Cologne from a two-lane rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway and include overdue intersection safety improvements. The proposed improvements will remove barriers to efficient freight movement, provide economic development opportunities at key locations, preserve existing infrastructure, and improve the corridor's mobility and safety for all users.

The City of Hamburg supports the inclusion and adoption of the six freight projects selected in MnDOT's Minnesota Highway Freight Program, including Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project, as presented in the Metropolitan Council's proposed Plan Amendment.

Sincerely,



Chris Lund, Mayor





HUTCHINSON

A CITY ON PURPOSE.

March 28, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Hutchinson is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This critical project expands five miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). 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.

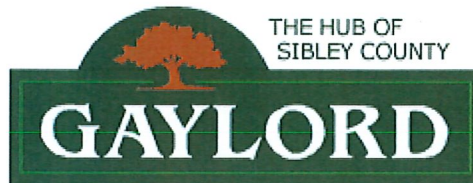
The corridor is part of the National Highway System and is one of the most important economic and freight highway corridors in the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. US Highway 212 is identified by the Minnesota DOT (MnDOT) in the Minnesota State Freight Investment Plan as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor. The corridor provides a connection for agricultural and industrial traffic to and from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, which is emphasized by the Metropolitan Council's prioritization of the highway as a "Tier One Truck Corridor".

The US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project addresses serious safety, access, and mobility issues and meets and exceeds the priority objectives of the DOT's grant programs. Most significantly, 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 not fully reconstructed since 1930, and strengthening local and regional economic competitiveness and vitality by realizing the vision of a reliable and connected freight transportation system.

The City of Hutchinson endorses and supports Carver County's application to US DOT Discretionary Grant Programs for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urges decision makers to prioritize the project for grant funding.

Sincerely,

Kent Exner
Hutchinson City Engineer



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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Gaylord is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This critical project expands five miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). 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 is one of the most important economic and freight highway corridors in the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. US Highway 212 is identified by the Minnesota DOT (MnDOT) in the Minnesota State Freight Investment Plan as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor. The corridor provides a connection for agricultural and industrial traffic to and from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, which is emphasized by the Metropolitan Council's prioritization of the highway as a "Tier One Truck Corridor".

The US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project addresses serious safety, access, and mobility issues and meets and exceeds the priority objectives of the DOT's grant programs. Most significantly, 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 not fully reconstructed since 1930, and strengthening local and regional economic competitiveness and vitality by realizing the vision of a reliable and connected freight transportation system.

City of Gaylord endorses and supports Carver County's application to US DOT Discretionary Grant Programs for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urges decision makers to prioritize the project for grant funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dawn Kratzke", is written over a large, light blue circular scribble.

Dawn Kratzke
Mayor

CITY OF GAYLORD

City of Victoria

March 28, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Victoria is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This critical project expands five miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). 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 is one of the most important economic and freight highway corridors in the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. US Highway 212 is identified by the Minnesota DOT (MnDOT) in the Minnesota State Freight Investment Plan as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor. The corridor provides a connection for agricultural and industrial traffic to and from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, which is emphasized by the Metropolitan Council's prioritization of the highway as a "Tier One Truck Corridor".

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The City of Victoria endorses and supports Carver County's application to US DOT Discretionary Grant Programs for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urges decision makers to prioritize the project for grant funding.

Sincerely,



Debra McMillan, Mayor
City of Victoria



TWIN CITIES & WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY

2925 - 12th Street East
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-7200
FAX (320) 864-7220

March 18, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Twin Cities and Western Railroad is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This critical project expands five miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). 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 is one of the most important economic and freight highway corridors in the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. US Highway 212 is identified by the Minnesota DOT (MnDOT) in the Minnesota State Freight Investment Plan as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor. The corridor provides a connection for agricultural and industrial traffic to and from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, which is emphasized by the Metropolitan Council's prioritization of the highway as a "Tier One Truck Corridor".

The US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project addresses serious safety, access, and mobility issues and meets and exceeds the priority objectives of the DOT's grant programs. Most significantly, 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 not fully reconstructed since 1930, and strengthening local and regional economic competitiveness and vitality by realizing the vision of a reliable and connected freight transportation system.

Twin Cities and Western Railroad endorses and supports Carver County's application to US DOT Discretionary Grant Programs for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urges decision makers to prioritize the project for grant funding.

Sincerely,

Signature

Mark Wegner

President & CEO



Office of
MARSHALL AREA TRANSPORTATION GROUP
E-mail: SturrockDE@gmail.com

March 20, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Marshall Area Transportation Group enthusiastically endorses the U.S. Highway 212 Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under the U.S. Department of Transportation's discretionary grant programs.

This critical project expands five miles of U.S. Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). Carver County and MnDOT have completed extensive corridor planning and are now partnering on project development for innovative design, financing and construction methods which will transform a two-lane undivided rural road, following a roadbed first constructed in 1931, into a continuous four-lane divided urban expressway.

Expansion of U.S. 212 will dramatically improve a key segment of this Critical Rural Freight Corridor. It will serve the stated priorities of U.S. D.O.T.'s grants programs by emphasizing highway safety, modern standards of infrastructure quality and reliability, economic competitiveness, multi-agency partnerships, and innovative financing. Also, it will greatly enhance Marshall's role as a center of value-added food and alternative energy processing, and as a hub for supply chain, logistics and network distribution for the Upper Midwest.

The corridor is part of the National Highway System and is one of the most important economic and highway freight corridors in the state, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. U.S. Highway 212 provides a critical connection for agricultural and industrial areas throughout the region. In addition, it is the highest priority "Tier One" Truck Corridor, according to the Metropolitan Council's Regional Truck Highway Corridor Study.

The Marshall Area Transportation Group and its advocacy partners Lyon County, the City of Marshall, and the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce strongly support the U.S. 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urge the Department of Transportation to award this project a high priority for grant funding.

Sincerely,

David E. Sturrock, Chairman
Marshall Area Transportation Group

March 21, 2022

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



Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Bongards' Creameries is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration of federal financial assistance under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This critical project expands five miles of US Highway 212 in Carver County, Minnesota from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility extending from the City of Norwood Young America (County Highway 34) to the City of Cologne (County Highway 36). 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.

For over 113 years, Bongards' Creameries has represented a significant business and community presence in the unincorporated town of Bongards, MN – just south of Highway 212 on County Road 51. To this day, this location is the primary place of work for many of our employees, the destination or departure point for substantial volumes of manufactured products and inbound raw materials, and a favorite stop for many of our frequent retail customers and visiting guests.

Highway 212 represents the primary artery for nearly 100% of this traffic, including:

- 50,000 trips to and from work per year, made by our over 225 employees at that location
- 20,000 annual shipments to or from the plant, carrying raw materials or finished goods
- 60,000 retail guests per year, representing approximately 40,000 trips

As demonstrated by the magnitude of these numbers, Highway 212 is vital to Bongards. Making the necessary improvements to the highway is critical to our organization – ensuring the safety of our customers, suppliers, and employees, while also ensuring continuous, efficient operation of our business.

Bongards' Creameries endorses and supports Carver County's application to US DOT Discretionary Grant Programs for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project and urges decision makers to prioritize the project for grant funding.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daryl Larson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daryl Larson
President and CEO