

May 17, 2022

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 request for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project for consideration under the US Department of Transportation (DOT) Discretionary Grant Programs. This important project in Carver County will expand US Highway 212 from a 2-lane undivided rural highway to a 4-lane divided expressway facility from the City of Cologne to the City of Norwood Young America in the southwest area of the region. 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 US Highway 212 corridor is part of the National Highway System and is an important agricultural and industrial freight corridor in the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. It is identified as a high priority Tier One truck corridor by the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council has awarded \$3.5 million for this project, further highlighting the corridor's importance for freight, mobility, and safety in the region.

The US 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 safety measures, and improving the state of good repair for National Highway System infrastructure not fully reconstructed since 1930.

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 grant application, and we look forward to working with the county and all other project partners to successfully deliver these important improvements.

Sincerely,

Charles Carlson

Charles Carlson (May 16, 2022 09:05 CDT)

Charles Carlson
Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director
Metropolitan Council

390 Robert Street North | Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805
P. 651.602.1000 | TTY. 651.291.0904 | metrocouncil.org
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