

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

July 31, 2023

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

Re: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Rural Surface Transportation Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

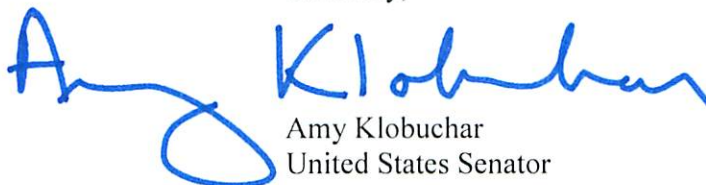
I write in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Program. If awarded, funding would support the Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project, which would address critical access and safety concerns, enhance connectivity, and improve the regional transportation network in central Minnesota.

State Highway 210 in Minnesota is a vital arterial route that runs from the Minnesota-North Dakota border through central Minnesota to Lake Superior, connecting the city of Brainerd and the Central Lakes region to other parts of the state. It plays an essential role in supporting commuters, freight movement, commercial transportation, and recreational travel. The highway is also vital to the local economy and a robust regional tourism industry; bringing visitors to the Central Lakes region and connecting its rural communities with the rest of the state. However, State Highway 210 in Brainerd is currently an outdated highway with serious access, mobility, and safety concerns; which negatively impacts freight movement, local economic development, and growth along the corridor.

Funding from the United States Department of Transportation would be used to reconstruct portions of State Highway 210, install accessible multiuse sidewalks, ramps, crosswalks, and trails along the corridor; rehabilitate a bridge, construct new roundabouts, and upgrade aging utility and storm water infrastructure. These improvements would address critical access and safety concerns, increase capacity, update aging infrastructure, and boost local economic development. If approved, this project would support the needs of rural Minnesotans by cutting commute times, boosting businesses and tourism in the region, and improving public safety.

Again, I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation 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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Crow Wing County, Minnesota

DATE: August 8, 2023

Resolution 2023-49

OFFERED BY COMMISSIONERS: Barrows and Koering

AYES: Koering, Lubke, Barrows, Franzen, Houge

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FY 2023-2024 MPDG GRANT APPLICATION FOR MN 210 IN
BRainerd - EQUITY, SAFETY, AND MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program provides dedicated funding for transportation infrastructure projects intended to increase equity, safety, and multimodal system connectivity, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is soliciting applications for \$5.5 billion for the FY 2023-2024 MPDG program as appropriated through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) under the National Infrastructure Investments and 2023 Appropriations Act (IIJA), and

WHEREAS, eligible projects for FY 2023-2024 MPDG program include surface transportation capital projects including highway, bridge, or other road projects, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) intends to apply for MPDG program funds for a project named MN 210 in Brainerd - Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project, and

WHEREAS, MnDOT, the City of Brainerd, Crow Wing County, and other public and private partners have collaborated to develop a community supported improvement project on a four-mile segment of Minnesota Highway 210 (MN 210) from Baxter Drive to Pine Shores Road in Brainerd, and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will improve freight movement through the region while simultaneously diminishing the risk of fatal and serious injury crashes by reducing conflict points and enhancing several key intersections, and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will also increase mobility and multimodal opportunities by creating a network of multiuse sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, and trails accessible by underserved populations and users of all abilities, and allow for the rehabilitation of the bridge over the Mississippi River as well as allow the City of Brainerd to make critical improvements to aging public utility and storm water systems, and

WHEREAS, MnDOT intends to apply for \$25.0 million of MPDG program funds to supplement existing funding streams and assist local agencies to meet future financial obligations associated with the project, and

WHEREAS, the County will incur a financial obligation associated with proposed intersection improvements at the junctions of MN 210 and County State Aid Highway 3 (CSAH 3) and CSAH 45, and

WHEREAS, an estimate of the County's financial obligation has been identified utilizing MnDOT's current cost participation policy and is included in Crow Wing County's 2023-2027 Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan, and

WHEREAS, if MPDG program funds are awarded to this project, Crow Wing County expects that MnDOT will equitably apply the benefits of the grant funds to the financial obligation incurred by the County as defined by MnDOT's cost participation policy in place at the time of construction, and

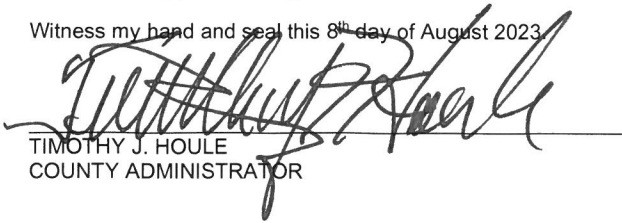
WHEREAS, Crow Wing County agrees to own and properly maintain the portions of the proposed project transferred to the permanent jurisdiction of the County after the project is complete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners of Crow Wing County, Minnesota, supports MnDOT's application for the FY 2023-2024 MPDG program funds for MN 210 in Brainerd - Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project with the expectation that any awarded funds be equitably applied to the County's financial obligation as defined by MnDOT's cost participation policy in place at the time of construction.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF CROW WING) ss

I, Timothy J. Houle, County Administrator, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution of the county board of said county with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board at a meeting duly held on August 8, 2023, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness my hand and seal this 8th day of August 2023.


TIMOTHY J. HOULE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

RESOLUTION

31:23

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FY 2023-2024 MPDG GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE MN 210 IN BRAINERD – SAFETY, MOBILITY, AND MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program provides dedicated, discretionary funding for transportation infrastructure projects in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation is soliciting applications for \$675 million for the FY 2023-2024 MPDG Grants Program as appropriated through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law under the National Infrastructure Investments and 2023 Appropriations Act; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects for FY 2023-2024 MPDG Grants Program include surface transportation capital projects including highway, bridge, or other road projects in rural areas in order to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Department of Transportation is seeking funds to improve safety, mobility, and multimodal transportation alternatives in Brainerd; and

WHEREAS, funds would be used to reconstruct or repave approximately four-mile segment of MN 210 from Baxter Drive to Pine Shores Road; construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails; rehabilitate bridge no. 5060 over Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; update utilities and signal systems, realign and access; replace stormwater infrastructure along the project corridor; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements will reduce fatal/serious injury crashes through the existing intersections and the numerous conflict points, enhance non-motorized transportation infrastructure, improve the safety, mobility, travel time reliability, resiliency, multimodality, and economic and regional growth of Brainerd Lakes Area; and

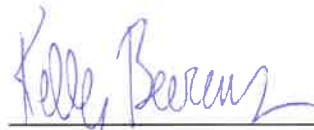
WHEREAS, the project is identified in the City of Brainerd's 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brainerd will provide funding as identified in the MPDG grant application, which includes the use of funding programmed for maintenance, secured funding through other grant programs, and additional program funding as applicable; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BRAINERD, MINNESOTA:

the City of Brainerd City Council supports and approves the application towards FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grants Program for MN 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project.

Adopted this 7th day of August 2023



KELLY BEVANS
President of the Council

Approved this 7th day of August 2023



DAVE BADEAUX
Mayor

ATTEST:



JENNIFER BERGMAN
City Administrator



August 8, 2023

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 FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grant Program: Hwy 210 Brainerd, MN – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the entire Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for the FY 2023-2024 rural Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program for the Hwy 210 Brainerd, MN – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project.

Over the last several years, Crow Wing County has worked closely with MnDOT to study and develop strategies to improve the local portions of MN 210. This east-west corridor functions as an important link for the municipal and county road systems. It also plays a critical role in Minnesota's overall transportation network that connects the twin ports area of Duluth to important freight destinations around the region.

Currently, the four-mile segment passing through Brainerd experiences the highest volumes of traffic and associated levels of congestion of all roadways within Crow Wing County. This combined with limited accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other multimodal users, makes it challenging to safely travel along or to cross this portion MN 210.

Crow Wing County's partnership with MnDOT continues to be part of a much larger collection of stakeholders including the cities of Brainerd, Baxter, and a number of other public and private partners. Over the last year, this level of collaboration and public outreach produced a community supported alternative ready for advancement to the next phases of engineering and construction. It achieves a thoughtful balance between the needs of the local residents and those required to sustain MN 210 as a major commuter and freight corridor.

An award of funding from the MPDG program will ensure the timely reconstruction of this critical segment of MN 210. The proposed improvements are designed to decrease congestion and increase safety by reducing conflict points and installing roundabouts at two key intersections. Likewise, it will create a continuous network of multiuse sidewalk, curb ramps, crosswalks, and trails, accessible by underserved populations and users of all abilities. Additionally, the project will provide an opportunity to rehabilitate the corridor's only bridge over the Mississippi River and allow the City of Brainerd to make critical improvements to its aging public utilities and stormwater systems.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

County Commissioners
Paul Koering – District 1
Jon Lubke – District 2
Steve Barrows – District 3
Rosemary Franzen – District 4
Doug Houge – District 5

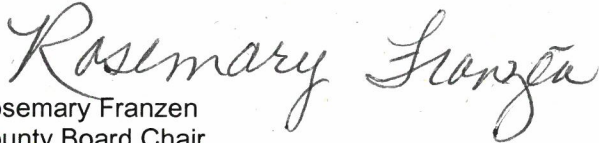
Historic Courthouse
326 Laurel Street, Suite 13
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1067
Toll Free: (888) 829-6680
Fax: (218) 824-1054
www.crowwing.us

Please accept this letter as an indication of Crow Wing County's full support for MnDOT's efforts to seek funding assistance to advance this important project. I ask that you give MnDOT's application for federal MPDG funding your full attention and favorable consideration.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Crow Wing County Engineer Timothy Bray at 218-822-2684 or tim.bray@crowwing.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Franzen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rosemary Franzen
County Board Chair
Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners

RF:tn



August 8, 2023

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 FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grant Program: Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023-2024 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program. Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. Hwy 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. It has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The MPDG Rural funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of Highway 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails; rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

For 40(+) years, the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) has coordinated regional transportation programs, such as the Transportation Advisory Council (TAC), which assists the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) District 3 and its local partnership, the Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) in programming Surface Transportation Program Block Grant (STBGP) funds as well as Transportation Alternative (TA) funds. R5DC fulfills a work plan for MnDOT in areas including Statewide Planning, Regional Planning. R5DC also delivers Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Planning and assistance to communities that are awarded SRTS Technical Assistance Grants.

Bridging Relationships & Resources

200 1st Street NE Suite 2, Staples, MN 56479 | 218.894.3233 | regionfive.org



REGION FIVE Development Commission

After reviewing this project proposal, the R5DC finds this project to be in alignment with our organization's mission and vision as well as the promotion of safety, and multimodal connectivity. Therefore, we are submitting this letter of support to encourage your consideration and support for this project as Minnesota Trunk Highway 210 is our Region's most highly traveled East/West corridor, and one of only a few East/West corridors in the State of Minnesota providing a crucial, global freight connection for Minnesota farmers and rural manufacturers, directly to the port of Duluth the Great Lakes, and beyond.

The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. R5DC support MnDOT's application for the funding of Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at 218.820.9281 or via email at terickson@regionfive.org

Sincerely,

Tad Erickson
Senior Transportation Planner
Region Five Development Commission

August 8, 2023

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 FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grant Program: Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023-2024 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program. Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. Hwy 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. It has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The MPDG Rural funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of Highway 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails; rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; and upgrade aging utility and storm water infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

Since the COVID 19 pandemic, the population shift to the area has increased traffic volumes and wait times. The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. I support MNDOT's application for the funding of Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at 218-316-3025 or adam.fulton@state.mn.us

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Fulton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Fulton
Captain
Minnesota State Patrol Brainerd District



August 2, 2023

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 FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 Brainerd /
Baxter – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Baxter City Council, we are writing this letter as an illustration of the City's support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023-2024 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program. The Minnesota Highway 210 Brainerd/Baxter – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. Minnesota Hwy 210 through Brainerd/Baxter is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. It has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd/Baxter. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The MPDG Rural funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of Minnesota Highway 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails; rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

Minnesota Highway 210 plays an integral role in the economic strength/growth of the City of Baxter and the Brainerd Lakes Area. This road provides a direct route to the ports in Duluth and the transportation hubs of Fargo/Moorhead Metropolitan Area, as well as serves as one of the arteries of our local retail/tourism industry. The improvements due with the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging

infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. We support MnDOT's application for the funding of Highway 210 Brainerd / Baxter – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We may be reached at 218-454-5100.

Sincerely,



Darrel Olson
Mayor



Bradley Chapulis
City Administrator

July 31, 2023

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



www.ci.brainerd.mn.us

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grant Program: Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023-2024 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program. Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. Hwy 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. It has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The MPDG Rural funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of Highway 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails; rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

This project will reconstruct the main corridor through the City of Brainerd and the success of this project is vitally important to the long-term health of the heart of Brainerd. The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. I support MnDOT's application for the funding of Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the City of Brainerd. You may reach Administration at (218) 828-2307.

Sincerely,
Dave Badeaux
Mayor, City of Brainerd City Council



August 11, 2023

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 FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grant Program: Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of our 1,100 members, I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for MPDG Rural Grant Program funding to address safety and accessibility concerns in the Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota.

Hwy 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. It has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The MPDG Rural funding would reconstruct a four-mile segment of Highway 210, construct a network of ADA-accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails; rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, improved aesthetics will complement our brand as a vacation destination.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota. The project is important to our regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. We support MnDOT's application and look forward to infrastructure investment in our region.

Sincerely,

Matt Kilian, President
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce



**Brainerd Lakes
Administrative Office**
224 West Washington Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 829-2838

**Brainerd Lakes
Welcome Center**
7393 State Highway 371
Brainerd, MN 56401
(800) 450-2838



Crosslake Office
County Road 3 and Route 66
P.O. Box 315
Crosslake, MN 56442
(218) 692-4027



Pequot Lakes Office
Along the Paul Bunyan Trail
P.O. Box 208
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
(218) 568-8911 or (800) 950-0291



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Trails
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

August 14, 2023

Luke Wehseler
District 3 Project Development
Project Manager/Consultant Coordinator
Local Partnership Program (LLP) Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425

**RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023-2024 MPDG Rural Grant Program: Highway 210 Brainerd, Minnesota
– Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project**

Dear Luke,

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the continued cooperation and support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the development, upgrading and improvement of the Cuyuna Lakes State Trail. We very much appreciate the MnDOT's efforts to include the upgrading and reconstruction to those portions of the existing Cuyuna Lakes State Trail located along and within your proposed TH210/Washington Street Improvement Project in the City of Brainerd, including (MnDOT) District 3's interest in pursuing funding for the numerous safety, mobility, and multimodal improvements identified along the portion of defined segment of TH210, which would include improvements to the proximate segments of the existing Cuyuna Lakes State Trail.

As you have outlined for us, the proposed project would result in the reconstruction of an approximately four-mile segment of TH210, that in addition to highway and utility improvements, would include the installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible, multiuse roadway intersections and the upgrading and improvement of both City administered sidewalks and trails and a 0.7 miles of the MnDNR administered Cuyuna Lakes State Trail. It is noted that the proposed improvements will serve to substantially improve the trail user safety and expand user accessibility along this aging state trail segment and will provide improved critical connections to local and regional trails and other recreational attractions.

On behalf of the MnDNR I want to again thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Keri Hull'.

Keri Hull
Area Supervisor
DNR Parks & Trails Division