



# COUNTY OF CHISAGO

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May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

We write to request your strong consideration of Chisago County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. If awarded, the funding would be used to complete the US Highway 8 Reconstruction Project. This critical project expands eight miles of US Highway 8 between Interstate 35 and Karmel Avenue in the cities of Wyoming, Chisago City, and Forest Lake, Minnesota.

The corridor is part of the National Highway System and is vital to the local and regional economy. It connects the region to the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Wisconsin and beyond. The project will enhance system performance, improve corridor safety for motorists and pedestrians, and support local/regional economic and community development.

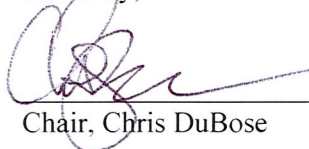
RAISE Grant funds will address critical capacity, access and safety issues along the eight-mile segment of US Highway 8 that the Highway 8 Corridor Study identified. Currently, over 22,000 vehicles a day utilize the two-lane highway. This not only causes safety and congestion issues; it severely restricts economic development along the corridor. Additionally, the corridor lacks any sort of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This project will construct approximately 6.5 miles of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail that will connect into the Hardwood Creek and Sunrise Prairie Regional Trails.

In addition to local vehicle traffic, the highway is used for a variety of economically significant activities. These include commercial freight, agricultural traffic, and commuter traffic to and from the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. There is also significant traffic on weekends, and throughout the vacation season, as travelers move between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Northwest Wisconsin.

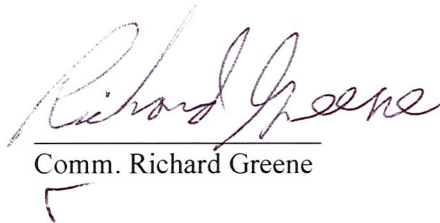
This project will greatly benefit the highway network and meet the priority objectives of the DOT's funding programs by emphasizing highway safety, local and regional economic competitiveness and vitality, and addressing rural challenges.

For the reasons above, I urge your full consideration of the Chisago County's application for the US Highway 8 Reconstruction Project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Joe Triplett, Chisago County Public Works Director | County Engineer directly at 651-213-8708.

Sincerely,

  
Chair, Chris DuBose

  
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Comm. Ben Montzka

  
Comm. Mike Robinson