



**395 John Ireland Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55155**

June 23, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is in reference to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity application for the project on US Highway 8 from Interstate 35 in Forest Lake to Karmel Avenue in Chisago City, located in Chisago County. This project is locally led by Chisago County on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's trunk highway system. This project will reconstruct US Highway 8 and expand it to four lanes. It will also consolidate and reduce approximately 60 access points to eight, which will help meet the project goals to increase safety, mobility, and economic development along the corridor.

Currently, the total project cost estimate is \$70 million. The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$11 million for project development and delivery. MnDOT will have a pavement preservation project in the corridor in the MnDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in fiscal year 2025, and these funds will be dedicated to this project. It is MnDOT's assumption at this time that the local agency will be responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps beyond the MnDOT commitment. This project is planned for construction in 2024.

MnDOT is committed to continue partnering with Chisago County as we develop this project and explore other funding opportunities and looks forward to continued cooperation as this effort moves forward to improve this transportation need.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Margaret Anderson Kelliher'.

Margaret Anderson Kelliher  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation

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