

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 6, 2021

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

Re: Chisago County, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

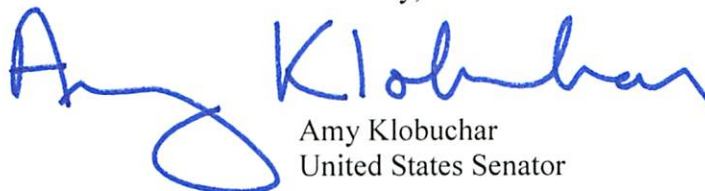
I write in support of Chisago County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program (RAISE). If awarded, the funding would support the U.S. Highway 8 Reconstruction Project, which would address critical access, capacity, and safety concerns on U.S. Highway 8 in eastern Minnesota.

U.S. Highway 8 in Minnesota is part of the National Highway System and is vital to the local and regional economy, connecting rural communities in eastern Minnesota to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area and beyond. The highway serves an essential role in supporting commuters, freight movement, and recreational travel. However, U.S. Highway 8 is currently an outdated two lane highway that serves nearly 22,000 vehicles a day, causing 1,100 vehicular accidents in the last 12 years. Not only does this cause safety and congestion concerns, but it has negatively impacted economic development and growth along the corridor.

Funding from the RAISE program would be used to convert an 8-mile segment of U.S. Highway 8 between the cities of Forest Lake and Chisago City from an undivided two lane highway to a four lane divided highway with safety medians separating directional traffic. The project would also include upgrades to access points along the highway and new cyclist and pedestrian trails, which would significantly reduce safety concerns. If approved, the U.S. Highway 8 Reconstruction 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 Chisago County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity 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](mailto:Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.Senate.Gov).

Sincerely,

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2310

June 29, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

I 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 connects the region to the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Wisconsin and beyond.

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.

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 addressing rural challenges.

For the reasons above, I urge your full consideration of Chisago County's application for the US Highway 8 Reconstruction Project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jake Schwitzer on my staff at 651-221-1016.

Sincerely,



US Senator Tina Smith

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2308**

June 8, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write in support 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.

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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,



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress  
Minnesota's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress  
Minnesota's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District



**SENATOR MARK KORAN**  
District 32



## Senate

**State of Minnesota**

Chair: Technology and Reform Policy Committee  
Vice Chair: Long-Term Care and Aging Policy Committee  
State Government Policy and Finance and Elections Committee  
Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

June 8, 2021

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

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**SENATOR MARK KORAN**  
District 32



## **Senate**

**State of Minnesota**

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Sincerely,

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**Anne Neu Brindley**  
Deputy Minority Leader



## **Minnesota House of Representatives**

June 10, 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.

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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,

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Anne Neu Brindley

District 32B



**Bob Dettmer**  
State Representative



# Minnesota House of Representatives

District 39A

June, 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.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Dettmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" and last name "Dettmer" clearly legible.

State Representative Bob Dettmer  
House District 39A

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Honorable Representative Brian Johnson  
The Minnesota House of Representatives  
State Office Building 243  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

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.

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Sincerely,

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Rep. Brian Johnson  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
District 32a





# COUNTY OF CHISAGO

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chisago County Government Center  
313 North Main Street, Room 172  
Center City, MN 55012-9663

Commissioners:  
District 1  
Chris DuBose  
District 2  
Rick Greene  
District 3  
Marlys Dunne  
District 4  
Ben Montzka  
District 5  
Mike Robinson

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.

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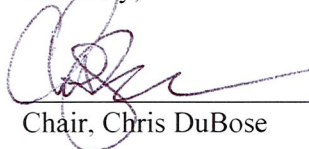
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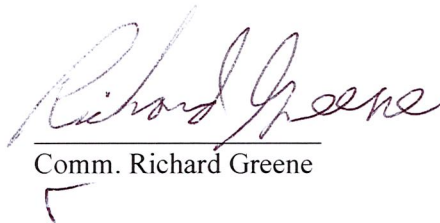
Sincerely,



Chair, Chris DuBose



Comm. Marlys Dunne



Comm. Richard Greene



Comm. Ben Montzka



Comm. Mike Robinson



# COUNTY OF CHISAGO

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Chisago County Government Center  
313 North Main Street, Room 172  
Center City, MN 55012-9663  
Phone: 651-213-8830 FAX: 651-213-8876

## Commissioners:

District 1  
Chris DuBose  
District 2  
Rick Greene  
District 3  
Marlys Dunne  
District 4  
Ben Montzka

Commissioner Montzka offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

## **RESOLUTION NO. 20/0519-1 2021 RAISE GRANT SUPPORT RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Department of Transportation released a Funding Opportunity to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 discretionary grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants; and

**WHEREAS**, Funds for the RAISE Transportation grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact., and

**WHEREAS**, Funding provided under National Infrastructure Investments have supported capital projects which repair bridges or improve infrastructure to a state of good repair; projects that implement safety improvements to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, including improving grade crossings or providing shorter or more direct access to critical health services; projects that connect communities and people to jobs, services, and education; and, projects that anchor economic revitalization and job growth in communities, and

**WHEREAS**, TH 8 is a vital interregional corridor that serves a variety of transportation needs; and

**WHEREAS**, TH 8 has become increasingly strained due to high levels of daily commuters, large trucks and spikes in weekend recreational traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, TH 8 has significant safety, mobility and access issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chisago County Board of Commissioners supports this program and its Public Works Director in pursuing and applying for funds from this program for the following projects:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the application and pursuit of funds from the 2021 RAISE Transportation Grant Program for reconstruction of TH 8.

Commissioner Greene seconded the resolution and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted:

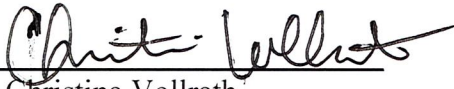
**IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Dunne, Greene, Robinson, Montzka  
**OPPOSED:** None.

Whereupon the proclamation was declared duly **passed** and **adopted**.

Approved: May 19, 2021



Chris DuBose  
Chair, County Board

Attest: 

Christina Vollrath  
Clerk of the Board







**Board of Commissioners**

Fran Miron, District 1  
Stan Karwoski, District 2  
Gary Kriesel, District 3  
Wayne A. Johnson, District 4  
Lisa Weik, Chair, District 5

June 15, 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Weik".

Lisa Weik, Board Chair  
Washington County Commissioner, District 5

June 14, 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.

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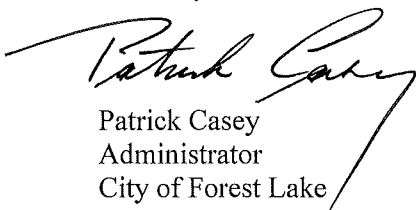
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Sincerely,



Patrick Casey  
Administrator  
City of Forest Lake



April 29, 2021

*Established In 1855*

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

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Sincerely,

Bob Gustafson  
Mayor City of Chisago City





May 5, 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.

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Sincerely,

City of Wyoming Mayor and City Council

Mayor Lisa Iverson  
Council Member Dennis Schilling  
Council Member Bret Ohnstad  
Council Member Linda Nanko Yeager  
Council Member Claire Luger

**Mayor**

Kevin Stenson

**City Administrator**

John J. Olinger

**CITY OF LINDSTRÖM**

"America's Little Sweden"

**Council Members**

Laurie Burington  
Bill Schlumbohm Sr.  
Scott Hildebrand  
Linda Merkel

April 29, 2021

13292 Sylvan Ave. • Lindström, Minnesota 55045  
(651) 257-0620 • Fax: (651) 257-0623

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,

Kevin Stenson,  
Mayor, City of Lindstrom, MN

[www.cityoflindstrom.us](http://www.cityoflindstrom.us)



**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

*Equal Opportunity Employer*



April 20, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg;

The highway eight taskforce consists of elected officials that represent towns, cities, and rural townships along the highway eight corridor. We discuss and evaluate various ideas that would improve the safety of the highway eight corridor. We make recommendations on these issues to Minnesota Department of Transportation as well as our local county highway Department.

We write to request your strong consideration of Chisago County's application for funding through the United States Department's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (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, 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.

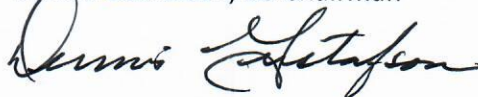
RAISE Grant funds will address critical capacity, a Currently, access and safety issues along the eight-mile segment of US Highway 8 that the Highway 8 Corridor Study identified. Currently, over 22,000 vehicles a day utilize the two-lane highway. This not only causes safety and congestion issues; it 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 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, The Highway Eight Task force. Dennis Gustafson, Co Chairman







CHISAGO COUNTY  
— HRA-EDA —  
*A Natural Resource for Business*

Phone: (651) 674-5664  
38871 7th Avenue | P.O. Box 815  
North Branch, Minnesota 55056  
[www.chisagocounty.org](http://www.chisagocounty.org)

April 27, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Chisago County Economic Development Authority, we 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 considerable 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, we urge your full consideration of 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,



James Stein  
Chair



June 14, 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, commuter traffic to and from the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and access to our local businesses. 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,

*Nannette M LaNasa*

Nannette LaNasa  
Executive Director  
Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
and the FLACC Board of Directors

*Serving the communities of Columbus, Forest Lake, Lent, Linwood, Scandia, Stacy, and Wyoming*  
20 North Lake Street, Suite 204 • P.O. Box 474 • Forest Lake, MN 55025-0474  
651-464-3200 • [www.forestlakechamber.org](http://www.forestlakechamber.org)





30525 Linden Street • PO Box 283

(p) 651-257-1177 (f) 651-257-1770

April 15, 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. Highway 8 is a major thoroughfare connecting the Twin Cities metropolitan area with Western Wisconsin and the many small towns and communities established in our part of the state. The project will enhance system performance, improve corridor safety for motorists and pedestrians, and support local/regional economic and community development. Highway 8 also serves as the main route to Minnesota's most highly visited state park, Interstate Park. Tourism and recreational opportunities are abundant in our area. However, without the proposed improvements, accessing this beautiful and popular tourist area is unsafe.

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. Access points for many homes and businesses are along Highway 8 making an already complicated traffic situation, extremely dangerous for those who live, work, and travel along the highway.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie Malchow", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Malchow  
Executive Director – Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce  
Executive Director, Chisago Lakes Visitors Bureau



# CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## BRANDON THYEN, SHERIFF

15230 Per Road  
Center City, MN 55012-9663  
Non-Emergency 651-257-4100  
Fax: 651-213-6330

**Administration**  
651-213-6300

**Investigation**  
651-213-6319

**Patrol**  
651-257-4100

**Civil Process**  
651-213-6307

**Records**  
651-213-6305

**Jail**  
651-257-2931

April 26, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

I 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.

In my 23 year law enforcement career in Chisago County, I have been responding to vehicle crashes along this stretch of US Highway 8. Each year, more vehicles are travelling this corridor and it's becoming more dangerous to travel. The reconstruction of this corridor is vital to all travelers and community members in our area. The Chisago County Sheriff's Office endorses and supports Chisago County's application for the US Highway 8 Reconstruction Project.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Thyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brandon" and last name "Thyen" clearly legible.

Sheriff Brandon Thyen  
Chisago County Sheriff's Office



April 15<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,

Chief Paul Hoppe



**PUBLIC SAFETY**

P.O. Box 188, 7665 Wyoming Trl., Wyoming, MN 55092  
Phone: 651-462-0577 Fax: 651-462-0506



# Lakes Area Police Department

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April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

I am writing 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,

William Schlumbohm  
Chief of Police

13292 Sylvan Avenue • Lindstrom, MN 55045  
Phone: (651) 257-0622 • Fax: (651) 257-8531

# Lakes Region



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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

I write to request your consideration and approval 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 approval 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,

Aaron Reinert  
Executive Director

## LOCATION

40245 Fletcher Ave.  
North Branch, MN  
55056

## PHONE

Office:  
651.277.4911

Interfacility:  
651.224.8994

FAX  
651.674.4628

WEB  
[lrems.com](http://lrems.com)

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# CHISAGO CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 605 CHISAGO CITY, MINNESOTA 55013

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May 15th, 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,

Zach Reed  
Fire Chief  
Chisago City Fire Department  
PO Box 605  
Chisago City, MN 55013



July 6, 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.

The Wyoming Fire Dept covers roughly 3 miles of US Highway 8 and provides mutual aid to departments to the North and South along US Highway 8. Wyoming Fire responds to several vehicle accidents every year on US Highway 8, these can range from minor fender benders up to fatalities. From a safety standpoint, US Highway 8 has a reputation of being a dangerous highway. Changes have been made over the years to make it safer, however more work needs to be done. This grant would help to address these safety issues and aid in lowering the amount of personal injury and fatal accidents that local public safety agencies respond to on US Highway 8.

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.



**PUBLIC SAFETY**

P.O. Box 188, 7665 Wyoming Trl., Wyoming, MN 55092  
Phone: 651-462-0577 Fax: 651-462-0506



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,

Jesse Milligan  
Fire Chief  
Wyoming Fire Department



**PUBLIC SAFETY**

P.O. Box 188, 7665 Wyoming Trl., Wyoming, MN 55092  
Phone: 651-462-0577 Fax: 651-462-0506



Alcohol  
and Gambling  
Enforcement

Bureau of  
Criminal  
Apprehension

Driver  
and Vehicle  
Services

Emergency  
Communication  
Networks

Homeland  
Security and  
Emergency  
Management

Minnesota  
State Patrol

Office of  
Communications

Office of  
Justice Programs

Office of  
Pipeline Safety

Office of  
Traffic Safety

State Fire  
Marshal



## Minnesota State Patrol

1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Ste. 410 • Mendota Heights, Minnesota 55120

Phone: 651.350.2000 • TTY: 651.282.6555

[msp.dps.mn.gov](http://msp.dps.mn.gov)

April 28, 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. From our perspective, with the pressure that is placed on system on a daily basis, it is critical enforcement has the ability to safely ensure traffic and weight laws are followed. It is also critical the system has the ability to provide the areas needed to render aid when necessary to the motoring public without jeopardizing the safety of the individuals needing the assistance, the motoring public, or enforcement officials.

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, including the traffic safety issues previously mentioned.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Olsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Olsen".

Captain Jonathan Olsen



# Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

June 8, 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,

Mark Mishek, President & CEO  
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

## TOWNSHIP OF CHISAGO LAKE

PO Box 649  
Lindstrom, MN 55045

June 28, 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, and adjacent areas of Chisago Lake township, 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 (on the west end) and Sunrise Prairie (on the east end) 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,  
*Sherry Stirling*  
Sherry Stirling, chair  
Chisago Lake town board  
Phone: 651-257-0827