



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

February 17, 2023

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 grant application for the project on US Highway 8 from Interstate 35 in Forest Lake, to Karmel Avenue in Chisago County. This project is a locally led project 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 \$80 million. The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$19 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; full project funding is not secured. 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 looks forward to continued cooperation with Chisago County 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 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Joe Triplett, County Engineer/Director, Chisago County
Michael Barnes, District Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation