

June 2, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities region is pleased to support the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project as a priority project for consideration under the US Department of Transportation (DOT) RAISE program. This important project in Carver County will expand US Highway 212 from a two-lane undivided rural highway to a four-lane divided expressway facility from the City of Cologne to the City of Norwood Young America in the southwest area of the Twin Cities region.

The 212 corridor is part of the National Highway System and is an important economic and highway freight corridor in the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region, connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and beyond. US Highway 212 provides a critical connection for agricultural and industrial areas throughout the region. In addition, it is identified as a high priority "Tier One" Truck Corridor by the Metropolitan Council, the region's MPO. In late 2020, the MPO also awarded the project \$3.5M indicating the freight, mobility, and safety needs of the project.

This project will benefit the highway freight network, improving a critical connection to and from the Twin Cities metropolitan area and meet the priority objectives of the RAISE funding program by emphasizing safety, economic competitiveness, being a model for regional partnerships, and deploying innovative technology and financing approaches.

As the region's MPO, the Metropolitan Council is committed to amending the TIP and long-range transportation plan to include this project if the project is fully funded.

On behalf of Metropolitan Council, I would encourage your support for Carver County's application for the US Highway 212 Rural Freight Mobility and Safety Project.

Sincerely,

*Nick Thompson*

Nick Thompson (Jun 2, 2021 07:39 CDT)

Nick Thompson, Metropolitan Transportation Services Division Director  
Metropolitan Council