



Minnesota Department of Transportation

District 4 – District Engineer

Lee H. Berget
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April 27, 2009

Keith Coalwell
City Mayor
P.O. Box 187
Dilworth, MN 56529

RE: S.P. 14-596-02
7th Street NE Reconstruction Project

Dear Mr. Coalwell,

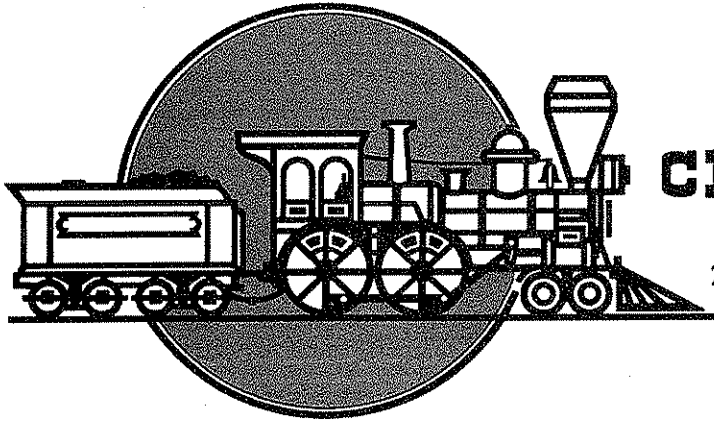
As you requested in your letter to Mn/DOT regarding the 7th Street Dilworth project, Mn/DOT supports this project and many of the benefits obtained by it being constructed.

US Highway 10 through Dilworth is an interregional corridor linking regional trade centers and supporting economic vitality. Many city and county roads link into the state transportation system and Mn/DOT is committed to collaborating with our external partners to create a safe, efficient and sustainable transportation system for the future. The 7th Street Dilworth project would improve mobility onto the State transportation network, and create opportunities to expand housing and increase economic development.

Please call me toll free at (800) 657-3984 if you have any additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Lee H. Berget
Transportation District Engineer



CITY OF DILWORTH

2 1st AVENUE SE, P.O. BOX 187, DILWORTH, MN 56529
(218) 287-2313 FAX: (218) 287-2309
dilworthcityhall@corpcomm.net

April 28, 2009

Congressmen Collin Peterson
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: 7th Street NE Project
Dilworth, MN

Dear Congressman Peterson,

The City of Dilworth is pursuing Member Designated High Priority Project (HPP) status and funding for the Reconstruction of 7th Street NE in Dilworth, Minnesota. Seventh Street NE is a vital transportation corridor within Dilworth. As a growing F-M Metropolitan Community of 3,800 people, we have urban transportation needs, but being under the MnDOT funding threshold population of 5,000, we have limited ability to seek state or federal funding.

The F-M Metropolitan Council of Governments studied the 7th Street NE corridor in 2005 and proposed the project for which we are seeking funding through this request. That study included numerous opportunities for public review and input. **The total project cost is estimated at \$6,000,000 (2009 dollars) and we are seeking \$4,800,000 (80%) in federal funding through this request. The City of Dilworth is committed to funding the local share of \$1,200,000 (20%).** This project has strong local support and attached please find support letters from the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments and from Minnesota Department of Transportation. The project need has been thoroughly documented and we have strong local, regional and state support. Should you need additional information, please contact City Administrator Ken L. Parke at (218) 287-2313.

Sincerely,

Keith Coalwell
Mayor

KC/bt
enc.

DILWORTH
a Minnesota





Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

701.232.3242 • FAX 701.232.5043 • Case Plaza Suite 232 • One 2nd Street North • Fargo, North Dakota 58102-4807

Email: metrocog@fmmetrocog.org

<http://www.fmmetrocog.org>

27 April 2009

Congressman Collin Peterson
2211 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

The Dilworth 7th Street NE reconstruction project is currently an identified need in the regional long-range transportation plan for the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. In fact, Metro COG staff completed a 7th Street NE Corridor study for the City of Dilworth in 2005, and restated the need to rebuild the 7th Street corridor in the 2008 Dilworth Transportation Plan.

The re-building of this corridor is important for several reasons. First, it lies in a high growth area for the City of Dilworth. Since 2000, about 350 parcels of land have been zoned for residential development immediately east of the 7th Street corridor, which is the collector that serves those adjacent residences. The importance of the corridor has been growing for the city, and will continue to grow as development continues. Second, 7th Street connects this area of east Dilworth to U.S. Trunk Highway 10, the major east-west arterial through Dilworth, and the primary connection between Dilworth and the rest of the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. Thirdly, there are some significant safety issues along the corridor that will need to be addressed as traffic volumes increase. There are no pedestrian sidewalks along the corridor, forcing pedestrians to walk in the street. The existing roadway has no shoulders and is flanked by steep drainage ditches. If a vehicle were to leave the driving surface, the slope of the ditches would likely "pull" the vehicle into the ditch rather than allow the driver to regain control and return the vehicle to the driving surface. Finally, there are some access spacing issues along the corridor that do not meet the current Mn/DOT guidelines for access spacing on a facility of this type.

Despite these needs, funding for this project is difficult to obtain. Dilworth is a city of less than 5,000, but is part of a larger metropolitan area and so has some significant traffic issues. But because of their size, they cannot directly apply for surface transportation dollars from the state. They are required to find a project sponsor – usually Clay County. However, the County has projects of their own and so it is not always in the best interest of the County to submit a project for Dilworth that will be competing for the same funding as their own projects.

Metro COG is currently working with the City of Dilworth to get the 7th Street project listed in the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program, thus reinforcing the project's significance as a regional priority for funding.

For all of these reasons, Metro COG is submitting this letter of support for the reconstruction of Dilworth's 7th Street NE corridor. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you may have at 701-232-3242.

Sincerely,

Robert Bright
Executive Director

A PLANNING ORGANIZATION SERVING

FARGO, WEST FARGO, CASS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND MOORHEAD, DILWORTH, CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA