

## Becker County Highway Department

200 State Street East  
DETROIT LAKES, MINNESOTA 56501-3128  
Office 218-847-4463 Shop 218-847-7516  
FAX 218-846-2360

**BRADLEY C. WENTZ, P.E.**  
County Engineer

**BRIAN SHEPARD**  
Construction Manager

**JOHN OKESON**  
Maintenance Superintendent

**KIM KILDAL**  
Accountant

April 22, 2009

Congressman Collin C. Peterson  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

On behalf of the Becker County Board of Commissioners and the Detroit Lakes City Council and Mayor we would like to request High Priority Project funding for the construction of a joint City County Transportation Facility. We are requesting federal funding in the amount of \$6 million with the remaining \$1.5 million being provided by local funds through the City and County. With both the City and the County in need of new Facilities we consider this an opportune time to combine into one building realizing many savings from construction costs to energy savings.

The Becker County maintenance buildings are over 80 years old and well beyond their intended service life. The facilities consist of six separate buildings spread in and North of the City creating major inefficiencies in terms of energy consumption, operational functionality and building maintenance. It is becoming increasingly difficult to meet OSHA and environmental standards due to the age of the facilities and changing standards. Several areas such as all basements and upstairs are currently deemed uninhabitable. The lack of space requires that a large portion of the vehicles and equipment need to be stored outdoors in harsh conditions.

The City Maintenance buildings used for servicing the street maintenance equipment are over 40 years old and are inadequate to service the increasing size of equipment. The equipment used to maintain public streets is located at 10 sites and housed in 11 buildings throughout the City, creating inefficiencies in terms of energy consumption, operational functionality, site and building maintenance. The miles of streets the City is responsible for maintaining continues to grow creating demands for more and larger equipment.

The proposed joint facility will consist of an approximately 70,000 square foot building which will include office space, warm storage, maintenance shop and fueling station. The land consists of a 17 acre site on the northern edge of the City along TH 59 which the County has already purchased in anticipation of such a facility. The design of the building will focus on "Green" technology and energy efficiency along with incorporating the latest safety and environmental standards.

The following is a list of some benefits of constructing a new combined City/County Transportation Facility:

- Both City and County facilities are in need of replacement, by combining facilities the construction costs will be reduced for both entities along with reducing the ever increasing building maintenance costs.
- The combined facility will promote efficiency by the sharing of resources such as personnel, equipment, and technology.
- With over a dozen separate buildings each with their own outdated, inefficient heating and utility systems there will be a tremendous energy savings by combining to one modern, high efficient heating system.
- Both the City and County existing facilities are located in busy residential areas within the City. Moving to the industrial area at the edge of the City will reduce the many traffic and pedestrian conflicts and damages to local City streets.
- By providing indoor storage for the trucks, vehicles and equipment along with improved maintenance facilities there will be a significant improvement to the service life of vehicles and equipment.
- The new building and modern technology will provide for safer and more environmental friendly conditions for the general public and employees.
- The combined facility will allow for the redevelopment and revitalizing of the many existing building sites throughout the City to better fit in with current zoning plans. This would include the TH59 pit North of town next to Floyd Lake.
- By utilizing local contractors and material suppliers for the construction of this facility there will be a much needed economic stimulus provided to the local economy.

Both the Becker County Board of Commissioners and the Detroit Lakes City Council are fully committed to this project as indicated by the attached resolutions. However, given the ever increasing burden on local taxpayers an important project such as this will not be possible without Federal Funding assistance. We are respectfully requesting your consideration of this very important project for Becker County and Detroit Lakes.

Sincerely,



Brad Wentz, P.E.

Becker County Engineer

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-016**

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY STAFF TO APPLY FOR  
FUNDING FOR A JOINT CITY-COUNTY HIGHWAY  
MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

WHEREAS, the current facilities housing the Becker County Highway Department Operations and Maintenance Department are over 80 years old; and

WHEREAS, these facilities consist of six separate buildings within the City creating major inefficiencies in terms of energy consumption, operational functionality and building maintenance; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet OSHA and environmental standards due to the age of the facilities and changing standards with several areas such as all basements deemed uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Detroit Lakes Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of public streets and related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the equipment used to maintain public streets is located at 10 sites and housed in 11 buildings throughout the City, creating inefficiencies in terms of energy consumption, operational functionality, site and building maintenance; and.

WHEREAS, the facilities used for servicing the street maintenance equipment are over 40 years old; and

WHEREAS, the facilities are inadequate to service the increasing size of equipment; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet OSHA and environmental standards due to the age of the facilities and changing standards; and

WHEREAS, the miles of streets the City is responsible for maintaining continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the City's current facilities make it more difficult to incorporate new technology in the administration, management, operation and maintenance of the Public Works Department; and

WHEREAS, Becker County and the City of Detroit Lakes believe certain economies and efficiencies can be achieved through the development of a joint street and highway maintenance facility by sharing technology, personnel, servicing and repair facilities, purchasing, equipment and other items.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the City Council of the City of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, hereby authorizes and approves an application for a joint City – County highway garage as a high priority project through Federal Reauthorization of the Transportation Bill in cooperation with Becker County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City hereby agrees to pay 50% of the local cost share of the facility based upon its share of the facility's use.

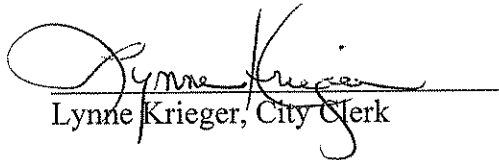
Passed and adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

Approved this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.



---

Matt Brenk, Mayor



---

Lynne Krieger, City Clerk

**THE BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**RESOLUTION 04-09-2B**  
**In the Matter of Applying for Funding for a Joint City-County Highway**  
**Maintenance Facility**

**Whereas**, the current facilities housing the Becker County Highway Department Operations and Maintenance Department are over 80 years old; and

**Whereas**, these facilities consist of six separate buildings within the City creating major inefficiencies in terms of energy consumption, operational functionality, and building maintenance; and

**Whereas**, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet OSHA and environmental standards due to the age of the facilities and changing standards with several areas such as all basements deemed uninhabitable; and

**Whereas**, the City of Detroit Lakes Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of public streets and related infrastructure; and

**Whereas**, the equipment used to maintain public streets is located at 10 sites and housed in 11 buildings throughout the City, creating inefficiencies in terms of energy consumption, operational functionality, site and building maintenance; and

**Whereas**, the facilities used for servicing the street maintenance equipment are over 40 years old; and

**Whereas**, the facilities are inadequate to service the increasing size of equipment; and

**Whereas**, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet OSHA and environmental standards due to the age of the facilities and changing standards; and

**Whereas** the miles of streets the City is responsible for maintaining continues to grow; and

**Whereas** the City's current facilities make it more difficult to incorporate new technology in the administration, management, operation and maintenance of the Public Works Department; and

**Whereas**, Becker County and the City of Detroit Lakes believe certain economies and efficiencies can be achieved through the development of a Joint Street and Highway Maintenance Facility, and sharing technology, personnel, servicing & repair facilities, purchasing, equipment and other items.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** That the Becker County Board of Commissioner, hereby authorizes and approves an application for a joint City – County Transportation Facility as a high priority project through Federal Reauthorization of the Transportation Bill in cooperation with the City of Detroit Lakes; and

**Be It Further Resolved** the City and County agree to equally divide the local cost share for the Facility.

Duly adopted this 28th day of April 2009 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

ATTEST:

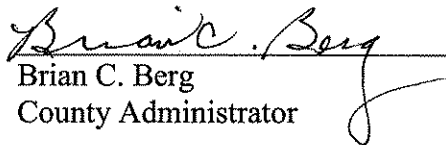
BECKER COUNTY BOARD  
BECKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

/s/ Brian C. Berg  
Brian C. Berg  
County Administrator

/s/ Harry Salminen  
Harry Salminen  
Board Chair

State of Minnesota    )  
                                  ) ss.  
County of Becker     )

I, the undersigned, being the duly appointed and qualified County Administrator for the County of Becker, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed, adopted, and approved by the County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held April 28, 2009 as recorded in the record of proceedings

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian C. Berg  
County Administrator