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April 29, 2009

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

RE: Request to include Clay County, MN Highway 52 (CSAH 52) Reconstruction and Surfacing project as a member designated High Priority Project in upcoming SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization

Dear Chairman Peterson:

This letter represents Clay County's request to include Clay County (MN) Highway 52 (CSAH 52) reconstruction and resurfacing project as a member designated High Priority Project (HPP) in the upcoming reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU legislation.

On Tuesday, April 28, 2009, the Clay County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to submit this request to your office. The total project cost is estimated at \$20,000,000. The amount requested under SAFETEA-LU authorization is \$16,000,000 (80%). The remaining amount of \$4,000,000 (20%) will be realized through funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP - \$1,000,000), County State Aid Funding (\$2,250,000) and local property tax dollars (\$750,000).

The proposed project is critical to the local and regional economy since it provides a "Farm to Market" link connecting Moorhead with Sabin, Baker and Barnesville. Additional growth in southern Clay County has significantly impacted the housing, business and industrial sector in this area and CSAH 52 is expected to serve as an important traffic corridor between Barnesville and Moorhead.

The 13.7 mile segment between Sabin and Barnesville has deteriorated significantly and presents a major safety hazard for all those that travel the roadway. For loaded trucks and buses the route is almost impassable. The road surface has many potholes, cracks, blowouts, and edge-line drop-offs, which are a significant safety hazard that has a huge potential for crashes. The project will also include replacing two bridges dating back to 1931 and three more dating back to 1922.

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The region along the CSAH 52 corridor is heavily farmed and is also used to transport sand and gravel into the Fargo Moorhead area. CSAH 52 is also a natural commuter route from southern Clay County into the Fargo Moorhead metropolitan area. The present condition makes this route unusable to many of the potential users causing them to take other routes, increase trip times, and even deters residents from expanding into the area along this corridor. This route serves as the only way to get the commodities to the local elevators in Sabin and Barnesville.

The current condition of the roadway in its distressed state causes much wear and tear on the vehicles using it. Additional fuel is used pounding up and down the road in addition to wearing out tires and other breakdowns, oil and hydraulic fluid spills, etc., caused by the potholes. Many users are forced to use other roadways, often gravel surfaced roads, circumventing around CSAH 52. This additional traffic on these low volume roads greatly increases maintenance in the form of blading and gravel needed due to the additional users.

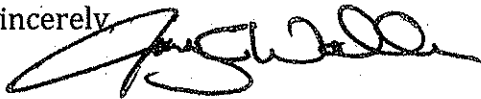
As mentioned earlier, it will take \$20 million to upgrade this road to acceptable standards. Presently, Clay County receives approximately \$2.2 million in State Aid annually (for rural as well as municipal combined) for Road & Bridge construction. Thus, it would take approximately 10 years worth of Clay County's total State Aid allotments to fund this project alone - with no State Aid funds left over for any other projects in the County's five year construction plan. Thus, a federal appropriation is critical to the completion of this project.

The proposed project is scheduled to be completed in 2012 and it is included in Clay County's five year Road & Bridge construction program. Clay County citizens have the opportunity to offer input and comments as the plan is reviewed annually at the regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners.

The proposed project enjoys strong support from the cities of Moorhead, Barnesville, and Sabin. It is also included in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments, and the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Please feel free to contact our County Administrator, Vijay Sethi (218-299-7327), or County Engineer David Overbo (218-299-5099) if you need further information regarding this appropriation request.

Sincerely,



Jerry Waller
Chair
Clay County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Clay County Commissioners

CITY OF BARNESVILLE
COUNTY OF CLAY
STATE OF MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION 03-10-08-12

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPATION FOR
RECONSTRUCTION OF COUTY STATE AID HIGHWAY (CSAH) 52.

WHEREAS: we the undersigned elected officials of the City of Barnesville recognize that the revenue for Clay County transportation infrastructure has failed to keep pace with the needs of Clay Counties transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Clay Country transportation infrastructure with a particular emphasis on roads and bridges needs an immediate source of revenue for improvements, maintenance and developments for the replacement of 13.7 mile segment between Sabin and Barnesville, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Clay County must provide for the safety and security of those who drive on CSAH 52 and bridges; and

WHEREAS: the United States Congress should find an acceptable, reasonable and sustainable compromise that delivers an immediate source of revenue to county roads and bridges;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved we hereby declare our support for the replacement of 13.7 mile segment between Sabin and Barnesville, Minnesota.

RESOLVED, this 10th day of March, 2008.

PASSED by a vote of six to six.


Fred Dahnke
Mayor

ATTEST:


Michael M. Brethorst
Chief Operating Officer

CITY OF SABIN
RESOLUTION NO. 03/18/08-01

RESOLUTION FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY 52

The City Council of the City of Sabin hereby resolves:

WHEREAS, the City of Sabin is located in Clay County on County State Aid Highway 52; and

WHEREAS, County State Aid Highway 52 is an important trunk highway connecting the City of Moorhead with the City of Sabin and City of Barnesville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sabin is dependent upon County State Aid Highway 52 as a road network to provide access to local growers who market their commodities in local elevators; and

WHEREAS, County State Aid Highway 52 provides an important commuter route for households living in the southern portions of Clay County traveling to and from the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area; and


WHEREAS, County State Aid Highway 52 provides a road surface used by recreational bikers; and

WHEREAS, County State Aid Highway 52 is used for emergency traffic accessing the south end of Clay County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sabin is in full support of the Clay County request for congressional appropriation for reconstruction of County State Aid Highway 52 in Clay County, Minnesota;

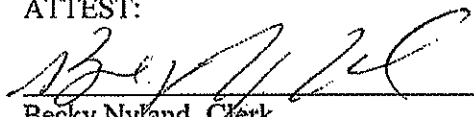
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of Sabin fully supports the efforts of Clay County, Minnesota, for congressional appropriation of funds for the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway 52 from the City of Sabin to the southerly boundary of Clay County.

Adopted by the Sabin City Council this 18th day of March, 2008.



Charles Neff, Mayor

ATTEST:



Becky Nyland, Clerk