



May 13, 2009

The Honorable Collin Peterson
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Subject: Authorization Request
City of Moorhead
SE Main Ave/20th/21st Street Grade Separations, 11th Street Underpass and
Ancillary Improvements for Moorhead's Comprehensive Safety Improvement
Program**

Dear Congressman Peterson:

As you understand from past collaborations on this project, the City Council and citizens of the City of Moorhead strongly support the SE Main Ave/20th/21st Street improvement and we are seeking your help in having it and related improvements reauthorized for federal assistance under the new surface transportation legislation.

Working in partnership with you and other members of our federal delegation, our city has made substantial progress in implementing our vision for a vibrant downtown, integrating transportation safety for all modes (autos, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and rail). Dating back to TEA-21, and your work to establish a Commission on Study Alternatives, we have cooperatively identified a solution to the major auto/rail conflict on these arterial roadways that impede connectivity to two NHS routes (US 10 and I-94).

Over the past ten years this project has been thoroughly vetted through numerous public comment opportunities including FHWA and MnDOT's formal Environmental Assessment public hearing process.

The total estimated cost of the SE Main/20th Street/ 21st Street Grade Separation project is \$40,300,000. Of this, a total of \$6,300,000 has already been secured for phase 1 pre-construction activities from federal and local sources; all of these funds have been obligated. Thus approximately **\$34,000,000 in construction activity remains**. Specific elements of the construction program include, phase 2: realignment of the BNSF railway; construction of a pump station discharge line; and construction of retaining walls (partial) and a water main distribution line (\$6,250,000); phase 3: construction of OTV and BNSF railroad bridges (partial), pump

The Honorable Collin Peterson
May 13, 2009

Page 2

station, and completion of retaining walls (\$9,800,000); and phase 4: completion of rail bridges, grading, concrete roadway surfacing, utility installation, and arterial improvements (\$17,950,000). Due to earlier work, all three construction phases can be undertaken as a total project, if funding is available; or elements can be implemented separately, or in activity clusters to match federal funding opportunities. The City of Moorhead is **requesting a total authorization of \$27,200,000** in federal funds. The requested amount is **80 percent of the total** remaining project costs. The 20 percent local share will be paid by the City of Moorhead using a combination of non-federal funds.

The completed project will provide significant benefits including better NHS connectivity, improved safety, reduced travel delays/congestion, enhanced environmental conditions, and economic redevelopment.

We appreciate your consideration of this pressing transportation need and look forward to your sponsorship of our authorization and appropriation request. We stand ready to assist you in this matter by providing whatever additional information and technical analysis you may need to move this project forward.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,



Mark Voxland
Mayor

MV/bj:030707

C: Michael Redlinger, City Manager
Robert A. Zimmerman, City Engineer