

SERVICE • STEWARDSHIP • SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

RENVILLE COUNTY



May 1, 2009

The Honorable Collin Peterson
United States House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Peterson:

It is with great pleasure that I make application on behalf of Renville County for federal funding in the amount of \$6,340,000 for "River Road" improvement of CSAH 5, which also includes the construction of a recreational trail in conjunction with the road improvement project.

The Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byways Alliance encouraged the paving of the river road for over a decade but funding has never been available so the project has never proceeded. Recently, however, the county was informed that you will have the opportunity to submit applications to the U. S. House of Representative Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for funding authorization from "Member-Designated High Priority Project" as part of the SATETEA-LU reauthorization. Lynnette Roshell, Minnesota State Aid Project Development Engineer, has determined that the project is eligible under Title 23 of the U.S. Code and determined that Renville County would be expected to be the sponsor. Mark Anderson, Scenic Byways Coordinator and Transportation Enhancement Coordinator of the Minnesota Department of Transportation states that the project would be an important improvement to the Minnesota National Scenic Byway and that it would improve access to the byway for travelers who would otherwise avoid gravel roadways. In addition, Donn Winckler, Executive Director, Mid-Minnesota Development Commission(MMDC) indicated the MMDC supports the efforts of Renville County and the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway Alliance to pursue funding and further states that the paved road will attract more travelers to the scenic route and enhance economic development through tourism efforts.

This project, CSAH 5, is 7.5 miles in length and runs west from Fort Ridgley State Park connecting just south of Franklin Minnesota. This road also conjuncts with a road heading south across the Minnesota River so it has the potential to connect to a trail planned south of the river thereby creating a loop which many travelers and recreationalist prefer to use. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$7,925,000, with a request for federal funding of \$6,340,000 which is 80% of the project, and the 20% balance of \$1, 585,000 is being pursued through State bond funding.

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This project is part of a larger project extending to the west that includes improvements to CR1 connecting to State Hwy 19 near Morton, MN. It is anticipated that CR1 improvements may cost \$3,380,000, resulting in our total request to the State of Minnesota being \$4,965,000.

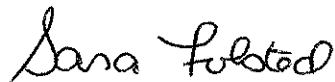
Several meetings have been held over the last few years regarding trail planning and the desire to connect trails throughout our region and state. This fall, Renville and Redwood Counties and all communities and residents will be invited to be involved in a trail planning process throughout our two-county area. Mary Vogel, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Landscape Architecture, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota will be leading the trail planning process; and funding for the project was received from the State of Minnesota, Renville and Redwood Counties, Renville County HRA/EDA, U of M West Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, and other participants. I share this information so that you can see that this has been a very public planning process, seeking partnerships with others and will continue to be so as we build on the tremendous assets of our area.

Representative Peterson, we know you have a large geographic area to cover; and we would like to extend an invitation to you and/or staff members to visit the project area in our beautiful Minnesota River Valley for which we are seeking your funding assistance of \$6,340,000. Our County appreciates your consideration and we remain ready to answer any questions you may have. Please contact me or Chris Hettig, Executive Director of the HRA/EDA office for any details regarding this project. Chris sits on the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byways Alliance and also conducted the background research for this request.

Once again thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

RENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Sara Folsted
Renville County Administrator



Ralph Novotny, Chair
Renville County Board of Commissioners
Renville County Government Services Center
Suite 315
105 South 5th Street
Olivia, MN 56277-1484

Phone: 320-523-3710
Fax: 320-523-3748

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RESOLUTION 13-09
RENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY 5(CSAH 5) AND COUNTY ROAD 51 LOCATED IN THE MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY FROM MORTON TO FAIRFAX, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, The Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway Alliance has asked Renville County to make improvements to the gravel "River Road", generally defined as the gravel road running parallel to the Minnesota River from the Fort Ridgely State Park in Southeast Renville County to the Upper Sioux Agency State Park on the southwest border of Renville County; and

WHEREAS, Representative Collin Peterson will have the opportunity to submit applications to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for funding authorization from "Member-Designated High Priority Project" as part of the SAFETEA-LU re-authorization; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation State Aid Project Development Engineer has determined that the "River Road" improvements project is eligible under Title 23 of the U. S. Code and determined that Renville County would be expected to be the sponsor; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Scenic Byways Coordinator and Transportation Enhancement Coordinator of the Minnesota Department of Transportation states, "We've discussed this project and I think that it would be an important improvement to the Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway that would improve access to the byway for travelers who would otherwise avoid gravel roadways. It would be important to utilize context sensitive design principals and Natural Preservation Route standards to preserve and protect viewsheds and other intrinsic qualities of the byway." and

WHEREAS, The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission supports the efforts of Renville County and the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byways Alliance in submitting this project for funding consideration and states that "this project would greatly benefit the county's and the Byways Alliance's efforts to enhance economic development through tourism efforts." and

WHEREAS, Renville County Engineer, Marlin Larson has prepared project cost estimates for CSAH 5 from the south County line to south Franklin, MN (length of 7.5 miles), and County Road 51 from CSAH 5 to State Highway 19, with an estimated total project cost of \$11,305,000.00; and

WHEREAS, The Renville County Engineer has determined that the project would address safety, mobility and environmental concerns and result in reduced erosion, eliminate dust problems and create a bike path for increased connectivity to the communities of Morton, Franklin and the FairRidge State Recreational Trail providing opportunities for bicycling, hiking, jogging and in-line skating contributing to healthy individuals; and

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WHEREAS, The Renville County Board of Commissioners fully support efforts to enhance tourism efforts within the County thereby creating increased revenue into the county and also providing opportunities to develop recreational trails connecting communities and throughout the Tatanka Bluffs region of Renville and Redwood counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, That Renville County, with the assistance of the Renville County HRA/EDA staff, will make application to Representative Collin Peterson for federal funding assistance of \$6,340,000 through the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for funding authorization from "Member-Designated High Priority Project" as part of the SAFETEA-LU re-authorization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE RENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, That Renville County will pursue bonding from the State of Minnesota for approximately \$5,000,000 to assist with the construction of the road and recreational trail on or near the "River Bottom Road" project running from Fort Ridgely State Park to Morton, MN.

BE IT SO RESOLVED THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2009.

Motion by Commissioner Bob Fox, second by Commissioner Paul Setzepfandt.

Voting in favor: Commissioners Lamont Jacobson, Bob Fox, Paul Setzepfandt, John Stahl, Ralph Novotny
Voting against: None

Witness this signature and seal.

Board of Commissioners of Renville County, Minnesota

By: Ralph G. Novotny

Ralph G. Novotny, Chair

ATTEST:

Sara Folsted
Sara Folsted, Renville County Administrator

The undersigned Administrator of Renville County, Minnesota, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of Resolution 13-09 adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Renville County, Minnesota, at a regular meeting held on the 28th day of April 2009.

Sara Folsted
Sara Folsted, Renville County Administrator