



March 24, 2009

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

**SUBJECT: 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST
CITY OF MOORHEAD
SE MAIN AVE/20TH/21ST STREET UNDERPASSES AND ANCILLARY IMPROVEMENTS**

Dear Congressman Peterson:

On behalf of the City Council and citizens of the City of Moorhead, I am asking for your consideration of our request seeking a fiscal year 2010 federal appropriation of \$5 million to construct Phase I of the SE Main Ave/20th/21st Street Underpasses and Ancillary Improvements. Our request will allow us to continue our comprehensive community improvement program as we implement a coordinated set of projects that will mitigate safety issues, reduce travel delays, improve traffic circulation, and enhance environmental conditions. Having received FHWA and Mn/DOT approval of the Environmental Assessment for this project, and with federal funds in hand, we will be ready to bid the first phase construction contract by the summer of 2009.

Working in partnership with you and other members of our federal delegation, our City has made significant progress in implementing a local vision for a vibrant downtown, integrating transportation safety for autos, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Dating back to TEA-21, and your work to establish a Commission to Study Alternatives, we have worked cooperatively to identify solutions that work—and work efficiently. We have secured a total of \$6.3 million of federal funds, to date for the SE Main/20th/21st Street Project. With a 2010 appropriation of \$5 million (to be matched by the City with \$1.25 million), we will be able to complete phase 1 construction activities. Specific activities will include: realignment of the BNSF rail line, construction of a pump station and discharge line, and construction of retaining walls and a water main distribution line, all prerequisite construction activities prior to bridge construction. After 2010 funding, a shortfall of \$27.75 million will exist. The City of Moorhead anticipates seeking the remaining funding necessary to complete the project from federal and local resources.

We appreciate your consideration of this pressing transportation need and look forward to your sponsorship of this request during the 2010 appropriations process. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Voxland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Voxland
Mayor

MV/bj:030707

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