



City of Staples  
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March 20, 2009

Rep. Collin Peterson  
2211 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Peterson:

I am writing to update you on two important developments related to the N/S Corridor with RR Overpass project in Staples.

First, on March 3, 2009 Lakewood Health System was notified that they have been designated as a Level III Trauma Hospital. Over the years we have tracked delays and trips that emergency vehicles have made to the south side of the railroad tracks in an effort to demonstrate the potential negative impact on public safety. With this designation, Lakewood Health System will be the destination for many more trauma patients, as EMS personnel will be required to transport patients to the highest designated Trauma Hospital in the area. As more critically injured people are being transported to Lakewood for treatment, the urgency to resolve the railroad crossing becomes even more urgent.

Secondly, I wanted to inform you that an additional \$300,000 of State Bonding Funds have been included in the recently passes Senate Capital Investment Bill. Although this appropriation must still be approved in Conference and be signed by Governor Pawlenty, we are optimistic that these non-federal funds will be available for local match.

As I stated in my earlier letter, the public process, preliminary engineering and environmental documents are complete and the Staples City Council and Todd County Board, as our State Aid Agency, have approved the layout. There is overwhelming support for this project and we are moving forward with the right-of-way acquisition.

Thank you for your help. Representatives from the City of Staples would be happy to meet with you or other Legislators to discuss this project. Please let me know what the next step is.

Sincerely,

Jerel Nelsen  
Community Development Director