

April 27th, 2021

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Preliminary Engineering Phase of the I-35/CSAH 50 Interchange in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The lead project sponsor for this project is Dakota County in conjunction with the City of Lakeville, and the project is located at the interchange on Interstate 35 and CSAH (Kenwood Trail) in Lakeville, MN (55044).

The funding is designated for preliminary engineering to determine the scope of corridor mobility and safety improvement needs. This will be used to guide final design for reconstruction of the interchange at I-35 and CSAH 50 in Lakeville, MN. It will also be used to complete corridor safety and mobility improvements in coordination with the pavement replacement projected included in the Minnesota Department of Transportation 10-Year Capital Highway Improvement Program. The existing interchange is an interim configuration that does not have sufficient capacity, sight distance, or turn lanes resulting in delays and safety issues. This existing situation will continue to deteriorate as the City of Lakeville and the surrounding communities continue to grow at a rapid rate. Proceeding with this project at this time presents a unique opportunity to coordinate with a pavement preservation project that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has programmed at this location.

The preliminary engineering would be an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is crucial to continuing progress on the redevelopment of one of the highest volume two-lane segments of interstate in the Twin Cities. Traffic will continue to grow along this corridor as this segment is utilized by two of the fastest growing areas of the state, Dakota and Scott Counties. As a Tier I regional freight corridor, it serves a critical role in interstate commerce. The corridor also serves express transit service from the south metro to job centers in Minneapolis.

The interchange at CSAH 50 is essential to mobility and access along the corridor, and the continued growth of Lakeville. The current interchange is at capacity and a new interchange is necessary to address long-standing traffic congestion and safety concerns. The modernization of the CSAH 50 interchange promotes new commercial development, encouraging job creation and creating additional tax base. The Lakeville City Council collaborated with local businesses, Dakota County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration nearly twenty years ago in constructing interim improvements and determining a long-term vision for this area. In the past nine years, the City has invested over \$20 million along the CSAH 50 corridor and Interstate 35 interchange in preparation for this project.

I strongly encourage your inclusion of this project in upcoming federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

Pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 17, and in accordance with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chair and Ranking Member guidance, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angie Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angie Craig
Member of Congress
April 27, 2021