

ANGIE CRAIG
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

CRAIG.HOUSE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY EXCHANGES,
ENERGY AND CREDIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT,
INVESTIGATIONS & REGULATIONS

April 27th, 2021

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding to facilitate the construction of the Veterans Memorial Greenway in Dakota County, Minnesota.

The lead project sponsor for this project is Dakota County, and the project will be located in a corridor between Dakota County's Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan and the Mississippi River Regional Greenway in Inver Grove Heights in ZIP codes 55123, 55076 and 55077.

The funding is designated to help the County construct a 5-mile paved route through exceptionally scenic Dakota County landscapes, including river views, woodlands, farmlands, parks and natural areas. It will be Minnesota's longest greenway dedicated to veterans, offering a safe and accessible outdoor space for veterans and other visitors to reflect in nature, celebrate the county's strong tradition of military service and unite in honor of all veterans. This will be Dakota County's first countywide veterans memorial and is expected to feature five to seven memorials along the greenway, including a large area for community gathering. The memorials will be designed and built in partnership with veterans' organizations. The greenway's accessibility features will welcome the county's more than 6,600 disabled veterans and other users with disabilities.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and aligns directly with the Committee's ongoing efforts to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety. A current route used by pedestrians and bicyclists between the county's most popular park and greenway poses at-grade conflicts with nearly 20,000 trucks and other vehicles daily on State Highway 3 and County Roads 71 and 73, and an additional 34,000 vehicles on State Highway 52. There also are conflicts with trains traveling on two active rail lines through Dakota County.

The Veterans Memorial Greenway also will allow bicyclists to ride from St. Paul to Lebanon Hills on a safer route separate from a growing volume of road traffic. A well-designed greenway that thoughtfully commemorates our veterans will give people of all abilities opportunity to improve the quality of their lives and will enhance safety for pedestrian and bicyclists along the corridor. 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,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress
April 27, 2021