

JOHN KLINE
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 13, 2010

Mr. Tom Sorel
Commissioner
MN Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

Mr. Peter Bell
Chairman
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

Dear Commissioner Sorel and Chairman Bell:

Thank you for your work to improve Minnesota's transportation system. As your respective agencies conduct the Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study, I offer the following input on behalf of my constituents in Carver County and others who live near or commute through the Highway 212 Corridor and Trunk Highway 5.

As you know, the Highway 212 Corridor serves as a critical transportation link from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to the South Dakota border. It is designated as part of the National Highway System and is one of seven key interregional corridors identified by the State of Minnesota. The portion of the highway east of Glencoe in McLeod and Carver Counties poses safety hazards where it switches from four lanes to two lanes west of Chaska, back to four lanes near Cologne, and back to two lanes near Norwood Young America. Based on numerous meetings with affected constituents over the years, I support a thorough review of this stretch of highway as part of the Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study. Because of the aforementioned safety considerations, I request this corridor be included in plans to complete a continuous four-lane facility from Eden Prairie to Norwood Young America.

Another transportation issue facing my constituents in Carver County is the status of Trunk Highway 5 (TH 5). Running from Chanhassen through Victoria and Waconia to Norwood Young America, TH 5 plays a vital role in connecting these growing communities and is the primary east-west route connecting these communities to the metropolitan area. With no major capacity or safety improvements planned, congestion will continue to grow by an estimated 50 percent by 2030. A Corridor Study undertaken by Carver County and the cities of Victoria and Waconia – in collaboration with Mn/DOT, the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition, and communities along the corridor – found the crash rate on Highway 5 is more than 20 percentage points higher than the statewide average, and the fatality rate for crashes on TH 5 is more than 70

percentage points higher than the statewide average. Accordingly, TH 5 should be upgraded from a two-lane highway to a four-lane highway from Chanhassen to Norwood Young America. In closing, including these critical highway systems as priority projects will improve safety and ameliorate congestion around the metropolitan area. Thank you again for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you on this important matter and would appreciate being kept apprised of any developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kline". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress