

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

July 08, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20590

**RE: 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
Infrastructure Grant submittal for Minnesota Highway 13 / Nicollet Avenue**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District, I am writing to express my support for the City of Burnsville's 2021 RAISE Infrastructure Grant request to fund construction of improvements at Minnesota Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville, Minnesota.

If awarded, the project located in my Congressional District will provide significant enhancements for safety, mobility, and accessibility for buses, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other traffic at this important gateway to a flourishing urban area in the southern Twin Cities metro.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is nearing the completion of a corridor study and hybrid environmental assessment it commissioned starting in 2019. Data indicates that the Highway 13 / Nicollet intersection recently had the highest number of crashes, critical crash rate and critical index among all study intersections for this 6-mile corridor. This intersection is also an important northern entry to Burnsville's Heart of the City District, which is also impacted by the safety concerns.

The City of Burnsville adopted the Heart of the City design framework in 1999 in effort to develop a central area and civic core for the city. Adopted into the comprehensive plan and zoning code, the Heart of the City District has seen significant housing and commercial development, alongside strong public investment in civic buildings and streetscape. Nicollet is Main Street for the Heart of the City. The Highway 13 intersection hosts two major regional transit resources – the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's Burnsville Transit Center and the Metro Transit Orange Line BRT Heart of the City Station (set to open in 2022).

The Heart of the City is a vital, mixed-use district, with growing diversity, more and better transit connections, and expanding bicycling and walking options for people who live, work and play here. It is a model suburban community embracing transit-oriented development and

working hard to develop a sense of community. I am confident that a redefined intersection at Highway 13 will support these efforts and demonstrate how good transportation design can support strong civic values, improved safety, and more climate-friendly transportation options.

For the reasons I have outlined, I wholly support and request your strong consideration of the City of Burnsville's RAISE Infrastructure Grant application. The project partners and I thank you for this opportunity to present this project for your consideration. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Will Mitchell, my Legislative Director, at (202) 225-2271 or by email at will.mitchell@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angie Craig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angie" and last name "Craig" clearly distinguishable.

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Burnsville, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the City of Burnsville's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program. If awarded, the funding would support improvements to the intersection of Minnesota Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue, which would address critical safety concerns, enhance connectivity, promote alternate forms of transportation, and spur economic development.

The intersection of Minnesota Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue is located in the heart of Burnsville, Minnesota; a Twin Cities suburb that is experiencing significant development and growth. It is located in a multi-use district with growing numbers of commercial, employment, and housing opportunities. The intersection also serves as a regional hub for public transit—both the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's transit center and Metro Transit Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit station are located nearby. In order to accommodate the significant growth in the region, additions and improvements to public infrastructure are necessary.

Funding from the RAISE Program would be used to construct a bridge on Nicollet Avenue over Minnesota Highway 13, separated pedestrian and bicycle facilities to cross the highway, new signals and a roundabout at the intersection, and a new on-ramp from Nicollet Avenue to Interstate 35W. These improvements would not only provide increased access to the regional transit center, but would also maintain the safety of both pedestrians and bikers while enhancing traffic operations at the intersection. This project would also help provide access to employment opportunities, support freight movement across our state, improve traffic capacity and safety along Interstate 35W, and create direct and reliable access to both I-35 and Minnesota Highway 13.

Again, I support the City of Burnsville's application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program. If you have any questions, please contact Rommel Lee in my Minnesota office at (612) 727-5220 or by email at Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2310

July 9, 2021

Mr. Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

To Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to encourage your strong consideration of the City of Burnsville's 2021 RAISE Infrastructure Grant request to fund construction of improvements at Minnesota Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville, Minnesota.

This project will benefit walking, bicycling and public transportation in Burnsville's growing Heart of the City District as well as in a concentrated area of jobs just north of Highway 13. It's an important example of how we can target federal dollars to retrofit a suburban community in a way that helps reduce air pollution, improves our environment and public health, and provides better access to jobs, .

Burnsville's Heart of the City is a mixed-use area designed as a transit-oriented district. Two regional transit stations already exist at this important intersection. Part of this zone is designated an Area of Concentrated Poverty by the Metropolitan Council. Burnsville is a suburban community that is increasingly diverse and is growing and changing in a way that is sustainable, forward-thinking, and that meets the needs of all of its residents. This project embodies that vision.

For the reasons above, I encourage your strong consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jake Schwitzer on my staff at 651-221-1016.

Sincerely,



US Senator Tina Smith

July 7, 2021

Mr. Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
Infrastructure Grant submittal for Minnesota Highway 13 / Nicollet Avenue**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, I want to again Congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of Transportation. It was a pleasure to work with you at the United States Conference of Mayors as colleagues advocating for our cities. I am so proud of you and all that you have accomplished and continue to do to help cities and our country. Thank you.

I want to thank you and Secretary Mayor Marty Walsh for talking with us Mayors on the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Framework Bill. It was important for us to hear from you and rally together as a non-partisan group to support this bill.

Secretary Mayor Pete, I have the pleasure to serve as Mayor of a diverse and growing community in Burnsville, Minnesota. We're a city that plans for long-term health and stability and the well-being of our residents, businesses and visitors. As a fully developed city, Burnsville is strategically redeveloping in key areas to allow for higher densities and with a mix of land uses. The Heart of the City District is among the most important of these. This area includes affordable and lifecycle-appropriate housing, jobs, retail, amenities and access to public transportation in a single, convenient location. This vital area is strongly integrated into regional transportation networks, including Interstate-35W, Minnesota Highway 13, the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority hub at Burnsville Transit Center, and the soon-to-open Metro Transit Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit service.

We're proud of what Heart of the City has become over the past 20 years of careful planning, and public and private investment. We think this is a great model for other growing suburban communities in the Twin Cities Metro and elsewhere in the U.S. Today, Heart of the City hosts a variety of uses, two regional transit stations, and is increasingly a great place to walk and bicycle. Yet the intersection of Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue – the gateway to the northern end of the district – poses serious problems. Traffic congestion and safety here are among the region's worst, and it is extremely difficult and uncomfortable for

pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the high volume, high speed highway to access public transportation, job opportunities, and other services.

The proposed intersection improvements at Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue will greatly improve traffic operations and safety, benefit transit operations and access to stations, and provide a grade-separated crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians. It is part of achieving Burnsville's long-term vision for Heart of the City as a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented area.

We are confident that this investment will pay dividends to support the continued vitality of this area and encourage people to use Public Transportation. The City of Burnsville is committed to the careful design and effective implementation of this project, and to meeting our maintenance obligations into the future. We are excited about the positive changes this project can bring to Burnsville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elizabeth B. Kautz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor



July 8, 2021

Jen Desrude PE
Burnsville City Engineer
100 Civic Center Parkway

Dear Ms. Desrude,

As President of the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce, I am happy to express the Chamber's support for the City of Burnsville's federal RAISE grant application for the intersection of Nicollet Avenue and Minnesota Highway 13.

As a local chamber, we work hard to keep our members informed and engaged with local transportation issues through our Business Transportation Forum and Public Policy Committee. We have been active partners on numerous transportation projects, providing insight from Burnsville's business community and communicating needs to transportation project managers.

The Chamber has been involved for several years in Highway 13 planning issues and in the continued development of the Heart of the City District, as well as transportation planning related to the Minnesota Valley Transit Agency's Burnsville Transit Center and the new Metro Transit Orange Line Station set to open soon. We strongly support the effort to improve accessibility and safety along Highway 13 at Nicollet Avenue. Improved access and a better front door to the Heart of the City District is important for its continued success. And as the district has become more walkable in recent years, the desire for better walking and bicycling facilities has become more important. The new sidewalks and grade-separated connections for people to cross Highway 13 will greatly improve access between Heart of the City District and the two transit stations, connections for transit riders between the two stations, and access across the busy highway to retail and office areas north of Highway 13. This project will better link public transportation investments to job-rich areas of Burnsville.

These factors are important for Burnsville's business community and the ongoing vitality of Heart of the City and surrounding business districts, therefore, we support of the City of Burnsville's RAISE application and are excited about the positive changes it can bring to this vital and growing area of the city.

Jennifer Harmening

Jennifer Harmening
President
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce
Direct: 952-898-5641
General 952-435-6000
Email: jennifer@burnsvillechamber.com





**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155**

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is in reference to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity application for the grade separated crossing for Nicollet Avenue at Trunk Highway 13 in the city of Burnsville. This project is a locally led project on MnDOT's trunk highway system. The proposed project would consist of a Quadrant Intersection arrangement, with Nicollet Avenue grade separated over a 4-lane TH 13, a traffic signal on TH 13 offset to the east of Nicollet Avenue, a roadway from the signal linking to a traffic circle on Nicollet south of the TH 13 corridor, a traffic signal on Nicollet on the north side of TH 13 providing access to an I-35W northbound on-ramp, and grade-separated pedestrian accommodations on both sides of Nicollet Avenue, linking the transit stations and extending the regional trail over TH 13. This arrangement will allow better traffic performance for both Nicollet Avenue and TH 13 while accomplishing Burnsville's goals to provide a grade-separated non-motorized transportation crossing of TH 13 and improved access to transit stations at this important transit-oriented development location.

Currently the total project cost estimate is \$29 million. The city of Burnsville has identified \$3.9 million for this project. MnDOT currently does not have this project included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or funding identified in MnDOT's 10-year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). It is MnDOT's assumption at this time that the local agency will be responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps. This project is planned for construction in 2026.

MnDOT looks forward to continued cooperation with the city of Burnsville as this effort moves forward to improve this transportation need.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Interim Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation

CC Regina Dean, Assistant Community Development Director, City of Burnsville
Michael Barnes, MnDOT District Engineer

Equal Opportunity Employer

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

April 5, 2022

Resolution No. 22-144

Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Second by Commissioner Atkins

Approval Of Grant Application Submittals For 2022 Regional Federal Funding Solicitation And Rebuilding American Infrastructure With Sustainability And Equity Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) is requesting project submittals for federal funding under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation is requesting project submittals for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program; and

WHEREAS, the FAST federal programs fund up to 80 percent of project construction costs; and

WHEREAS, the RAISE federal grant program in rural areas funds up to 100 percent of project costs and 80 percent of project costs in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, federal funding of projects reduces the burden, local taxpayers, for regional improvements; and

WHEREAS, project submittals are due on April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, all projects proposed are consistent with the adopted Dakota County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, subject to federal funding award, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners would be asked to consider authorization to execute a grant agreement at a future meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following County led projects for submittal to TAB for federal funding:

- 1) County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 46 (160th Street/Brandel Drive) from Trunk Highway (TH) 3 to TH 52 in Coates, Empire Township and Rosemount
- 2) CSAH 46 (160th Street) from 1,300 feet west of General Sieben Drive to Highway 61 in Hastings
- 3) CSAH 42 (150th Street) from Redwood Drive to 147th Street in Apple Valley
- 4) CSAH 26 (Lone Oak Road) from TH 13 to Interstate 35E in Eagan
- 5) CSAH 46 (160th Street) at CSAH 85 (Goodwin Avenue) in Nininger and Vermillion Townships
- 6) CSAH 60 (185th Street) from CSAH 50 (Kenwood Trail) to Ipava Avenue in Lakeville
- 7) CSAH 63 (Delaware Avenue) Trail from TH 62 to Marie Avenue in Mendota Heights and West St. Paul
– Safe Routes To School

STATE OF MINNESOTA

County of Dakota

	YES		NO
Slavik	<u>X</u>	Slavik	<u> </u>
Gaylord	<u>X</u>	Gaylord	<u> </u>
Halverson	<u>X</u>	Halverson	<u> </u>
Atkins	<u>X</u>	Atkins	<u> </u>
Workman	<u>Absent</u>	Workman	<u> </u>
Holberg	<u>X</u>	Holberg	<u> </u>
Hamann-Roland	<u>X</u>	Hamann-Roland	<u> </u>

I, Jeni Reynolds, Clerk to the Board of the County of Dakota, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Dakota County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 5th day of April 2022, now on file in the County Administration Department, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal of Dakota County this 5th day of April 2022.



Clerk to the Board

- 8) CSAH 63 (Delaware Avenue) Trail from Marie Avenue to TH 149 (Dodd Road) in Mendota Heights and West St. Paul
- 9) Minnesota River Greenway – Railroad Overpass in Eagan
- 10) River to River Greenway from TH 149 trail and TH 149 underpass in Mendota Heights
- 11) Mendota to Lebanon Hills Greenway - TH 149 South in Mendota Heights
- 12) Veterans Memorial Greenway from TH 3 to CSAH 32 (Cliff Road) in Eagan and Inver Grove Heights
- 13) CSAH 23 (Cedar Avenue) pedestrian overpass at 140th Street in Apple Valley
- 14) CSAH 42 Trail and Underpass from 145th Street to Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the following city led submittals to TAB for federal funding:

- 1) Nicollet Avenue and TH 13 interchange in Burnsville
- 2) CSAH 23 (Cedar Avenue) pedestrian overpass at 147th Street in Apple Valley – Transit Modernization
- 3) CSAH 9 (Dodd Boulevard) Trail from 210th Street to CSAH 50 (Kenwood Trail) in Lakeville
- 4) CSAH 73 (Babcock Trail) Trail from Upper 55th St. to I-494 in Inver Grove Heights
- 5) Lake Marion Greenway from Sunset Park to Rose Bluffs in Burnsville
- 6) Lake Marion Greenway from Ritter Farm to downtown in Lakeville
- 7) North Creek Greenway from 199th St. W to Rambling River Park in Farmington

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following County led project for submittal to U.S. Department of Transportation for the RAISE grant program:

- 1) County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 46 (160th Street/Brandel Drive) from Trunk Highway (TH) 3 to TH 52 in Coates, Empire Township, and Rosemount
- 2) Mississippi River Greenway Trail, Rosemount east segment

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the following city led submittal to U.S. Department of Transportation for the RAISE grant program:

- 1) TH 13 and Nicollet Avenue grade-separated intersection in Burnsville

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, subject to federal funding award of the city-led projects, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners will provide the local match for regional greenway projects and for non-greenway projects will provide Dakota County's share of the matching funds consistent with Dakota County transportation cost-share policies.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
County of Dakota

	YES		NO
Slavik	<u>X</u>	Slavik	<u> </u>
Gaylord	<u>X</u>	Gaylord	<u> </u>
Halverson	<u>X</u>	Halverson	<u> </u>
Atkins	<u>X</u>	Atkins	<u> </u>
Workman	<u>Absent</u>	Workman	<u> </u>
Holberg	<u>X</u>	Holberg	<u> </u>
Hamann-Roland	<u>X</u>	Hamann-Roland	<u> </u>

I, Jeni Reynolds, Clerk to the Board of the County of Dakota, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Dakota County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 5th day of April 2022, now on file in the County Administration Department, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal of Dakota County this 5th day of April 2022.



Clerk to the Board



Physical Development Division
Steven C. Mielke, Director

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, Mn 55124-8579

952.891.7000
Fax 952.891.7031
www.dakotacounty.us

Environmental Resources
Land Conservation
Groundwater Protection
Surface Water
Waste Regulation
Environmental Initiatives

Office of Planning

Operations Management
Facilities Management
Fleet Management
Parks

Transportation
Highways
Surveyor's Office
Transit Office

April 12, 2022

Elaine Koutsoukos, Transportation Coordinator
Transportation Advisory Board
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: TAB Regional Solicitation Resolution of Support for Trunk Highway 13
and Nicollet Avenue Mobility Project

Dear Ms. Koutsoukos:

Please see the attached Dakota County Board resolution regarding the City of Burnsville's Regional Solicitation federal funding application for the grade separation of Nicollet Avenue at Trunk Highway (TH) 13.

Though neither roadway is under Dakota County's jurisdiction, TH 13 is important mobility corridor for residents and businesses in the County and region. Furthermore, the intersection of TH 13 and Nicollet support two important transit hubs, the MVTA Burnsville Transit Station and Metro Transit's Heart of the City Orange Line station.

Dakota County appreciates the City's efforts to secure funding for this important multi-modal project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin Laberee".

Erin Laberee, P.E.
County Engineer



July 6, 2021

Jen Desrude, PE
Burnsville City Engineer
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337

RE: 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Infrastructure Grant submittal for Minnesota Highway 13 / Nicollet Avenue

Dear Ms. Desrude:

Metro Transit extends its support for the City of Burnsville's proposed intersection improvements at Minnesota Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue and your application for federal RAISE Infrastructure Grant funding. Metro Transit is finishing construction of the METRO Orange Line BRT Heart of the City Station, immediately adjacent to this intersection. The improvements proposed will enhance the pedestrian and bicycle environment for the Heart of the City Area and between the Orange Line Station and the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's Burnsville Transit Center – located across Highway 13. This will help connect and support ridership on the new Orange Line service and other transit routes. Overall, this project will improve connections and access the Heart of the City BRT Station.

Opening in late 2021, Orange Line is a 17-mile planned bus rapid transit service that will connect Burnsville to Minneapolis along I-35W. It will provide frequent, all-day service in both directions, seven days a week. It is intended to provide competitive running times for station-to-station trips and will offer an attractive and affordable transportation option for people traveling north and south along the Interstate corridor, particularly to reach job centers like Burnsville Heart of the City and Downtown Minneapolis.

Federal funds including FTA Small Starts and Congestion Management and Air Quality Programs comprise the majority of the Orange Line's capital financing, but funding for the project is a strong collaborative effort among state and local program partners, including the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council, Dakota County, and the Counties Transit Improvement Board.

Metro Transit appreciates your efforts to secure funding for intersection improvements at this location and looks forward to continued coordination as the project progresses.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wes Kooistra', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wes Kooistra
General Manager

A service of the Metropolitan Council



100 East Highway 13
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

T: (952) 882-7500
F: (952) 882-7600

June 29, 2021

Jen Desrude
Burnsville City Engineer
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337

**RE: 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
Infrastructure Grant submittal for Minnesota Highway 13 / Nicollet Avenue**

Dear Ms. Desrude:

The Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) extends its support for the City of Burnsville's proposed intersection improvements at Minnesota Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue and your application for federal RAISE infrastructure Grant funding. Overall, this project will improve connections and access at MVTA's busiest transit hub, Burnsville Transit Station. MVTA's highest ridership express and local routes (460/444) serve Burnsville Transit Station, providing over 630,000 rides in 2019. Currently, over 150 trips operate out of this location on a daily basis, with pre-COVID levels nearing 260 daily trips.

MVTA appreciates your efforts to secure funding for intersection improvements at this location and looks forward to continued coordination as the project progresses.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luther Wynder", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Luther Wynder
Chief Executive Officer
Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

AMES CENTER

April 5, 2022

Jen Desrude, PE
Burnsville City Engineer
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337

RE: Support of the TH 13 and Nicollet Avenue Mobility Improvement Project's Funding Pursuit

Dear Ms. Desrude:

Please accept this letter in support of the TH 13 and Nicollet Avenue Mobility Improvement Project's current funding pursuit. We have been made aware of the City of Burnsville's efforts to reconstruct this intersection to provide a grade separated, multi-modal crossing of Highway 13 for improved safety and operations of commuters, freight, transit, pedestrians, and cyclists. We believe this project will reduce congestion delays and create better access to jobs and services in our region.

The proposed project will increase mobility along Highway 13 and in Burnsville's Heart of the City, the city's core downtown. A grade-separated crossing will decrease congestion and separate pedestrian access to the downtown and transit stations from high volume and speed highway traffic which is mutually beneficial to the safety and efficiency of all travelers through the project area.

These outcomes are important for the continued success of our business. Improvements that provide easy accessibility for all modes of transportation are critical to the success of the Ames Center. Being better suited to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists will only increase the value Ames Center provides to Burnsville residents and regional visitors alike. This project will also encourage future residential and business growth, providing the levels of accessibility the Heart of the City needs.

For the reasons above, Ames Center supports all funding pursuits to advance and construct this locally and regionally significant project. We look forward to experiencing the project benefits upon its timely completion.

Sincerely,



Executive Director
Ames Center



AMES CENTER
12600 NICOLLET AVENUE • BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337
P: 952.895.4685 • E: INFO@AMES-CENTER.COM
WWW.AMES-CENTER.COM

January 27, 2022

Jen Desrude
City Engineer
City of Burnsville
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337

Dear Ms. Desrude,

The Interchange Planning Review Committee has determined that the proposed interchange and related access changes along Highway 13 at Nicollet Avenue in the City of Burnsville satisfy the 5 qualifying criteria found in Appendix F of the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan and will be approved. There is a concern that drivers coming from I-35W onto eastbound Highway 13 will see the Nicollet overpass before they see the signal. The design will need to ensure that the signals are easily visible so people do not assume they are entering another freeway and approach the quadrant roadway intersection too fast.

As the project layout and design progresses, please continue to work with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Metropolitan Council to assure that the project is developed consistent with the region's plan. In addition, please ensure that appropriate steps are taken to complete the Metropolitan Council's Metro Freeway Project Approval process. The formal Metro Freeway Project Approval request typically happens toward the end of the planning process, once an environmental document is completed. However, the approval must take place before the project right-of-way is purchased or construction begins. Additional information on the Metro Freeway Project Approval process can be found by following this link:

<https://metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Planning-2/Transit-Plans,-Studies-Reports/Highways-Roads/ControlledAccessApproval.aspx> or by contacting Tony Fischer at 651-602-1703.

We appreciate your work with the Interchange Planning Review Committee in our effort to understand this project. If you have any questions concerning this review, please feel free to contact me at (651) 234-7793.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Corbett, PE
State Program Administrator Coordinator

Copy sent via E-Mail:

Ryan Wilson, MnDOT
Diane Langenbach, MnDOT
Jason Junge, MnDOT
David Burns, Metropolitan Council

Bryant Ficek, MnDOT
Mohamoud Mire, MnDOT
Steve Peterson, Metropolitan Council
Tony Fischer, Metropolitan Council