

AGENDA

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Kandiyohi County Historical Society

610 NE Hwy 71

Willmar

- I. Call to Order: Chairperson Kevin Crowley
- II. Introductions
- III. Setting of Agenda
- IV. Approval of October 25, 2017, Minutes: Robert Moller
- V. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Mike Housman
- VI. Auditor's Report: Darrin Ogdahl & Patty Grube of Conway, Deuth & Schmeising
- VII. Consent Agenda
 - A. Personnel and Work Program/Budget Joint Committee Minutes – October 25, 2017
- VIII. Correspondence and Announcements
- IX. Staff Reports
 - A. Written
- X. Old Business - None
- XI. New Business
 - A. Personnel Committee Recommendations on COLA (**Donn Winckler & Committee**) (**Action**)
 - B. Banking Master Services Agreement (**Sue Gimse**) (**Action**)
 - C. Support Resolutions for Corridors of Commerce Applications (**Donn Winckler**) (**Action**)

(over)

D. Regional Transportation Coordination Councils Update (**Donn Winckler & Matt Johnson**) (**Inform**)

E. Community Development Director Report (**Matt Johnson**) (**Inform**)

XII. Other

XIII. Adjournment

MINUTES

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
Meeker County Courthouse
Litchfield, Minnesota

Members Present: Robert Anderson, Cathy Baumgartner, Kevin Crowley, Frank Eder, Doug Erickson, Rick Fagerlie, Mike Housman, Doug Krueger, John Lofdahl, Robert Moller, Rollie Nissen, DuWayne Underthun

Members Absent: Jeff Benson, Sue Hilgert, Helen Ruebel

Other Full Commission

Members Present: Shawn Mueske, Francis Schweiss

Staff Present: Executive Director Donn Winckler, Financial Director/Office Manager Sue Gimse

Call to Order

Chairperson Crowley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions

Chairperson Crowley asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Crowley asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. Executive Director Winckler added item F under New Business, Document Scanning for Record Retention. Commissioner Nissen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Eder seconded the motion, which carried.

Approval of September 27, 2017 Minutes

Commissioner Moller moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion, which carried.

Treasurer's Report

The checkbook balance as of October 15, 2017 was, \$37.65. The bills approved totaled \$53,299.27 (payroll \$31,736.20; vendors \$20,207.87; transfer to savings \$1,355.20). The savings account

balance was \$318,591.82; Long Term Savings were \$547,108.27; and the 4M balance was \$2,281.61.

Commissioner Housman moved to accept the treasurer's report and bills to be paid. Commissioner Moller seconded the motion, which carried.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

Bylaws Committee Minutes – September 27, 2017

Commissioner Housman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lofdahl seconded the motion, which carried.

Correspondence and Announcements

Executive Director Winckler reported that the Commission's auditors completed their field work at the Commission's office during the first week in October. The plan is to present the audit to the Commission at the December Commission meeting. Executive Director Winckler also discussed that the Lester Prairie City Administrator sent an email thanking Community Development Director Johnson for assisting the City with preparing their Comprehensive Plan. The City Council is very happy with the plan.

Staff Reports

To add to staff reports in the Commission packets, Community Development Director Johnson's staff report was handed out. Chairperson Crowley asked if there were any question on the written staff reports. There were no questions.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Minutes of Joint Meeting of Personnel Committee and Work Program/Budget Committee

Commissioner Housman moved to approve the October 20, 2017 minutes from the joint meeting of the Personnel Committee and the Work Program/Budget Committee as written. Commissioner Lofdahl seconded the motion, which carried.

MMDC Health Insurance

Committee members from the Joint meeting between the Personnel Committee and the Work Program/Budget Committee discussed their recommendations on employee health insurance. There was a Committee meeting held just prior to the Board of Directors Meeting.

Commissioner Moller moved to end membership with the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative as of the end of the current contract (12-31-17). Commissioner Lofdahl seconded the motion, which carried.

Commissioner Lofdahl moved for the Commission to provide health insurance coverage under the Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP), with a two-tier Health Savings Account (HSA) Plan at cost level two. Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

There was both a majority and minority recommendation from the Joint Committee on the various options looked at for Commission contribution into the employee's health insurance plan. They were both discussed.

The majority Committee recommendation for 2018 is to pay 85 percent of Single PEIP Tier 2, Cost level 2 premium costs, and 75 percent of the Family PEIP Tier 2, Cost level 2 costs. MMDC's monthly share of premium costs for single coverage is \$416.47, and \$956.25 for family coverage. In addition, those employees choosing to go with the HSA PEIP plan shall receive \$200 per month into the employee's HSA plan.

The minority Committee recommendation was to pay for 100 percent of single insurance premium costs and the single share plus 50% of the difference between the single and family costs for those with family coverage. In addition, those employees choosing to go with the HSA plan shall receive \$200 per month into the employee's HSA plan.

Commissioner Moller moved to approve the majority Joint Committee recommendation. Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried. With the current four employees on the MMDC Health Insurance Plan, the MMDC annual cost for this action will be \$42,545.28.

Commissioner Lofdahl moved to request that the Personnel Committee meet to review the 85/75 percent policy for next year, and to look at the possible elimination of percentages. Commissioner Moller seconded the motion, which carried.

Website Platform Change

Executive Director Winckler discussed the reasons why staff is recommending the expense of approximately \$500 to update the Commission's website platform. Commissioner Housman moved to approve staff utilizing the services of the Commission's current website designer to change the platform for the approximately cost of \$500. Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

Regional Transportation Coordination Councils

Executive Director Winckler reported that staff will be attending a November 9 meeting in St. Cloud that will discuss the upcoming application process for setting up new Regional Transportation Coordination Councils. Questions need to be answered to determine if it is desirable for the Commission to submit an application and act as the staff for the organization if awarded funding. The grant deadline is March 31, 2018, with contracts to be awarded on July 1, 2018.

MMDC Special Interest Membership

Executive Director Winckler provided information on current Special Interest Members on the Commission and examples of what other state RDCs have for these members. There was a discussion on the direction Commissioners want to go with the recruitment of potential additional Special Interest members on the Commission. Currently there is a need to add a minority representative.

Document Scanning for Record Retention

Chairperson Crowley placed this on the agenda to start the discussion of having staff research the methods and costs of using scanners to electronically keep new and past files that need to be saved as part of the record retention. The City of Willmar's recent water damage to part of their offices was brought up showing the need to move in this direction.

Adjournment

Commissioner Moller moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nissen seconded the motion, which carried. Chairperson Crowley adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donn Winckler, Acting Secretary

Kevin Crowley, Chairperson

Robert Moller, Secretary

MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Account of Revenue & Expenditures
October 16, 2017 - November 15, 2017

Checkbook Balance October 15, 2017 \$ 37.65

Receipts:

| | | | |
|----------|---|------------------|---------------|
| 10/16/17 | Electronic Deposit, St MN, MNDOT Planning Grant | \$ 37,500.00 | |
| 10/29/17 | Electronic Deposit, St MN, Taxes | 3,234.35 | |
| 11/03/17 | Meeker County, Taxes | 14,561.94 | |
| 11/03/17 | Kandiyohi County, Taxes | 184.31 | |
| 11/03/17 | Renville County, Taxes | 10,701.02 | |
| 11/13/17 | Hwy 23 Coalition, Fiscal Agent Services | 615.08 | |
| 11/13/17 | League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, Audit W/C Refund premium | 222.00 | |
| 11/15/17 | Reimbursements | 27.21 | |
| 11/15/17 | Interest - US Bank Savings Acct -Sept, Oct | 5.59 | |
| 11/15/17 | Transfer from Savings | <u>42,000.00</u> | \$ 109,051.50 |

Expenditures:

| | | | |
|--|--|------------------|---------------|
| Payroll - September | | \$ 30,500.69 | |
| Vendors | | 433.17 | |
| Transfer to Savings (Deposits and Interest) | | 67,051.50 | |
| Electronic Payments, Payroll Taxes, Deferred Compensation, Bank Fees | | <u>10,921.03</u> | \$ 108,906.39 |

Checkbook Balance November 15, 2017 \$ 182.76

US Bank Savings Account Balance November 15, 2017 \$ 343,826.08

Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund (4M) - Interest Rates Vary Daily 10/31/2017 \$ 2,281.61

4M CD Rate 0.85% 12 Months Matures 01/30/2018 \$ 100,000.00

Long Term Savings

CD#94020 Rate .40% 19 Months Matures 04/06/2018 Bremer Bank \$ 146,108.27

CD Rate 1.5% 2.5 Years Matures 06/18/2018 Ally Bank 53,000.00

CD Rate 1.5% 2.5 Years Matures 06/18/2018 BMW Bank 248,000.00

Total \$ 447,108.27

Insurance

F.D.I.C. - US Bank, Willmar \$ 250,000.00

F.D.I.C. - Bremer Bank, Willmar \$ 250,000.00

F.D.I.C. - Ally Bank, Midvale Utah \$ 250,000.00

F.D.I.C. - BMW Bank, Salt Lake City, Utah \$ 250,000.00

Collateral Pledged - Bremer Bank, Willmar \$ 355,000.00

Collateral Pledged - US Bank, Willmar \$ 213,496.02

Board Payment Listing

Run Date: 11/20/2017
Run Time: 9:53:56 AM
Page -1 of 1

| Check# | Check Date | Vendor Name | Check Amount | Description |
|--------------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 40636 | 10/16/2017 | Donald H Burgett, PLLC | 250.00 | Inv #357 |
| 40637 | 10/16/2017 | Charter Communications | 279.93 | Phone/Fax/Internet |
| 40638 | 10/16/2017 | Loffler Companies, Inc | 69.73 | Copies - 09/17 |
| 40639 | 10/16/2017 | Public Employees Retirement Assoc. | 2,105.50 | PERA 10/1-10/15/17 |
| 40640 | 10/16/2017 | SW/West Central Service Coop | 3,779.00 | Emp H Ins - 11/17 |
| 40641 | 10/16/2017 | Sterling Water - Minnesota, LLC | 25.22 | Water - Inv#315X01678506 |
| Check Total | | | <u>6,509.38</u> | |

Board Payment Listing

Run Date: 11/20/2017
Run Time: 9:58:45 AM
Page -1 of 1

| Check# | Check Date | Vendor Name | Check Amount | Description |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 40642 | 10/26/2017 | Economic Development Admin. | 18.19 | Sequestered Funds Interest 4/1-9/30/17 |
| 40643 | 10/26/2017 | Grants Management System, Inc. | 100.00 | Software Maintenance |
| Check Total | | | <u>118.19</u> | |

Board Payment Listing

Run Date: 11/20/2017
Run Time: 9:59:17 AM
Page -1 of 1

| Check# | Check Date | Vendor Name | Check Amount | Description |
|--------------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 40649 | 11/01/2017 | American Family Life Assurance Co. | 138.88 | Emp Ins - 10/17 |
| 40650 | 11/01/2017 | Amber Gimse | 170.00 | Janitorial Services - 10/17 |
| 40651 | 11/01/2017 | Loffler Companies, Inc | 336.65 | Copier Lease - Inv #342072295 |
| 40652 | 11/01/2017 | MN NCPERS Life Ins | 16.00 | PERA Life Ins - 10/17 |
| 40653 | 11/01/2017 | Northern Business Products | 5.88 | Acct #12617 - Office Supplies |
| 40654 | 11/01/2017 | Public Employees Retirement Assoc. | 2,164.60 | PERA 10/16-10/31/17 |
| 40655 | 11/01/2017 | United Way of Willmar | 10.00 | Emp Contributions - 10/17 |
| 40656 | 11/01/2017 | US Bank | 336.00 | CC Chgs - Johnson Survey Monkey |
| | | | 54.66 | CC Chgs - Westerman |
| | | | 80.15 | CC Chgs - Gimse |
| | | | 465.50 | CC Chgs - Winckler Nat'l Walking Summit |
| 40657 | 11/01/2017 | City of Willmar | 1,600.00 | Rent - 11/17 |
| Check Total | | | <u>5,378.32</u> | |

| | <u>Vendors</u> | <u>Pavroll</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Totals | \$ 12,005.89 | \$ 18,142.51 |
| Staff Reimbursements | 785.46 | - |
| Employee Taxes/Reimbursements | <u>(12,358.18)</u> | <u>12,358.18</u> |
| TOTALS | \$ 433.17 | \$ 30,500.69 |

MINUTES

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission Joint Meeting of Personnel Committee and Work Program/Budget Committee

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
Meeker County Courthouse
Litchfield, Minnesota

Personnel Committee

Members Present: Robert Moller, Rick Fagerlie
Members Absent: DuWayne Underthun, Sue Hilgert

Work Program/Budget Committee

Members Present: John Lofdahl, Mike Housman, Francis Schweiss, Kevin Crowley,
Shawn Mueske
Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Donn Winckler, Executive Director; Sue Gimse, Financial
Director/Office Manager

Call to Order

The Joint Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

MMDC Health Insurance

Joint Committee Minutes from October 20, 2017 were handed out to remind members of recommendation actions taken at the last meeting. These items were quickly discussed.

Four scenario options for MMDC health insurance contributions were sent by email prior to the meeting and copies were handed out at the meeting. The Joint Committee members came to a consensus to eliminate two of the options for consideration. Time was spent discussing the pros and cons of the two remaining options.

There was both a majority and minority recommendation from the Joint Committee on the various options looked at for Commission contribution into the employee's health insurance plan. They were both discussed.

Commissioner Mueske moved to approve the following recommendation for MMDC health insurance contributions for 2018: pay 85 percent of Single PEIP Tier 2, Cost level 2 premium costs, and 75 percent of the Family PEIP Tier 2, Cost level 2 costs. MMDC's monthly share of premium costs for single coverage is \$416.47, and \$956.25 for family coverage. In addition, those employees choosing to go with the HSA PEIP plan shall receive \$200 per month into the

Joint Committee Minutes

October 25, 2017

Page 2

employee's HSA plan. Commissioner Lofdahl seconded the motion, which carried. With the current four employees on the MMDC Health Insurance Plan, the MMDC annual cost for this action will be \$42,545.28.

The minority Committee recommendation (Commissioners Housman and Moller) was to pay for 100 percent of single insurance premium costs and the single share plus 50% of the difference between the single and family costs for those with family coverage. In addition, those employees choosing to go with the HSA plan shall receive \$200 per month into the employee's HSA plan.

Commissioner Lofdahl moved to recommend to request that the Personnel Committee meet to review the 85/75 percent policy for next year, and to look at the possible elimination of percentages. Commissioner Moller seconded the motion, which carried.

Adjournment

With no further business, Commissioner Mueske moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donn Winckler, Acting Secretary

Correspondence and Announcements

December 6, 2017

Donn Winckler

The new MMDC staff vehicle was delivered to us on November 22. As was discussed at previous meetings the vehicle is a 2018 Chevy Equinox, purchased through the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

The November 25 Minneapolis Tribune featured an article on the City of Olivia. The article focused on revisiting the community 15 years after an in-depth Star Tribune series about the community and the residents. The article was written by the Growth & Justice research organization. Within the article, MADO's "DevelopMN" document was referenced. I will bring a copy of the article to pass around at the meeting.

MMDC ACTIVITIES

Staff: Donn Winckler, Executive Director

- All staff attended the October 30 – 31 MADDO All Staff Retreat held at Breezy Point Resort, north of Brainerd. Matt and I gave a presentation on Active Living Transportation Plans.
- I attended the November 6 Kandiyohi County EDC Broadband Committee meeting.
- As part of the Area Transportation Partnership process on the Transportation Alternatives program I met with both Kandiyohi County and the City of Dassel's Engineer to discuss their Letter of Intent to apply for funding under this program. I prepared a report for District 8 MnDOT on these meetings. I also discussed this program with two other communities that do not meet the minimum requirements to prepare full applications.
- Matt and I attended a workshop on November 9 in St. Cloud that discussed the application process to apply for a "Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils Organizational Planning Grant." We are working to set up a meeting of the Committee we used to prepare the 2017 Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan to discuss moving forward with an application.
- I attended the MnDOT District 8 Toward Zero Deaths Committee meeting on November 14. I also attended the Willmar Bikes Committee meeting on November 15.
- I attended the Highway 23 Coalition Board meeting on November 9 where the topic was submitting applications to the State's Corridor of Commerce program. I prepared resolutions of support for both TH 23 projects and for the Highway 212 Coalition's project.
- Sue and I met with the Auditors on November 27.
- I attended the Executive Directors' MADDO meeting held in Fergus Falls on November 29 – 30.
- I have been doing research on record retention. The MMDC last prepared a Record Retention Schedule plan back in 1994. The document could use some updating.

MMDC ACTIVITIES

Staff: Les Nelson, Economic Development Director

The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has needed some management and administration. I have also received some interest and questions from possible borrowers. I continue to work to find qualified borrowers for the Revolving Loan Fund. The RLF Semi-Annual Report for the period ending 9-30-17 was forwarded to the Federal Economic Development Administration to stay in compliance with EDA Regulations. This was submitted in late October 2017.

Work has begun on the Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Performance Report due to EDA Chicago Regional Office using the Grants Online Process. The report is due next month. The Performance Report is a required submittal to stay in compliance with the Special

Award Conditions from the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration's Planning Grant Award to the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission.

I attended the Minnesota Association of Development Organization's All Staff Conference at the Breezy Point Resort, north of Brainerd. The conference was held October 30 and 31. The Conference was well attended and there were many Plenary Sessions, as well as break-out sessions. Sessions included Housing Issues, Active Transportation, and Local Foods.

MMDC ACTIVITIES

Staff: Matthew Johnson, Community Development Director

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plans

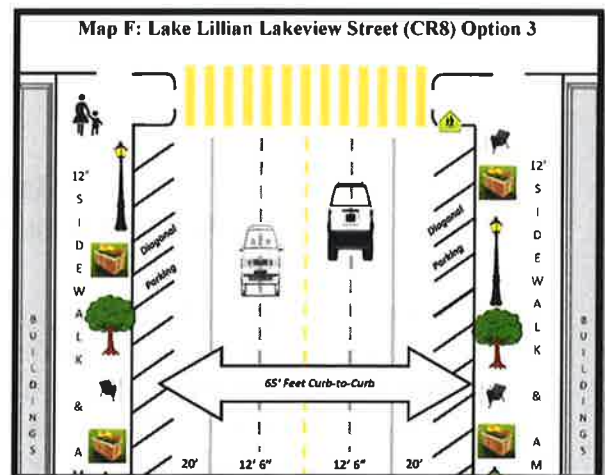
Eden Valley-Watkins (EVW) – Two walk audits of Eden Valley and Watkins have resulted in several potential pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements. The EVW School District will be hosting a Safe Routes to School Open House event on December 11 for parents to provide comments on SRTS issues.

Cedar Mountain Elementary – The SRTS Committee has walked around the elementary school to identify potential pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The draft SRTS plan will be ready for the Committee to review in January.



Lake Lillian

The City of Lake Lillian is conducting local meetings to discuss their options on what Main Street (County Road 8) will look like after it is reconstructed in 2020/21. The current street width is approximately 81 feet and will be reconstructed to approximately 65 feet. The reduction of 16 feet will provide the opportunity for new amenities, such as wider sidewalks, trees, benches and flower boxes. They are also examining the cost of replacing sewer and water lines under Main Street since there would be cost-savings if completed during construction. Once these decisions are made, I will be assisting them with developing a comprehensive land use plan.

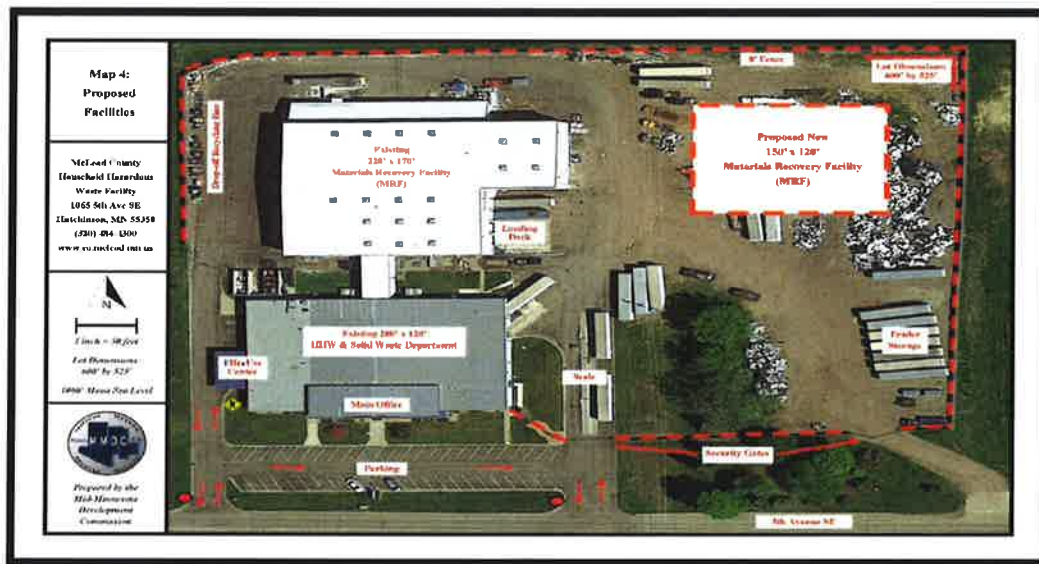


City Codes/Zoning Ordinances

I have created the draft Title 5 (Transportation) of Atwater's City Codes for them to review.

McLeod County Solid Waste/Recycling Grant

Work continues with writing a grant to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for McLeod County to be able to build an auxiliary Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The final design plans and preliminary cost estimates for the project should be ready by December 15, 2017.



Transportation Planning

I am currently the co-chair of the RDC's statewide transportation planners group. As a result, I have taken the lead on planning our quarterly meetings. The next three meetings will take place in Mankato in February, Red Wing in May, and Fergus Falls in August. The meetings are very well attended by various transportation stakeholders from around the state.

Buffalo Creek Watershed District

Work continues with updating the BCWD's rules and regulations. The main revision needed is to clarify the district's drainage coefficients and permitting process. I am coordinating the efforts with the District's attorney and engineering firm. They are trying to simplify the application process and ensure they are only regulating priority issues.

Resolution in Support of Funding for US Highway 212: A Corridor of Commerce Program

WHEREAS US Highway 212 serves a critical role in connecting Greater Minnesota to Twin Cities markets in the Metropolitan Area and has been designated an Interregional Corridor while also being placed on the National Highway System;

WHEREAS US Highway 212 is heavily used by freight traffic with 1,850 heavy trucks in the corridor daily and freight in Southwest Minnesota will potentially grow by 200 percent by 2030, increasing truck traffic on Highway 212 dramatically;

WHEREAS the Corridor of Commerce program was created to accelerate improvements to corridors that are not being addressed through the regular program, including projects that span multiple MnDOT districts, and the legislature specifically identified US Highway 212 as a Corridor of Commerce in legislation passed in 2017;

WHEREAS traffic volumes in year 2030 are forecast to increase to between 21,000 and 28,000 vehicles per day or two to three times the existing traffic volumes, exceeding the capacity of the existing two-lane facility;

WHEREAS an Environmental Assessment has been approved for the 4.6 mile 2-lane gap between Cologne and Carver and the project is ready for construction upon securing right-of-way and final design;

WHEREAS forty-one communities and local chambers of commerce have passed resolutions supporting improvements to Highway 212 to expand the capacity of this highway and the Board of Commissioners of every county along the corridor has passed such a resolution;

WHEREAS the current highway poses serious safety problems as it switches from four-lane facility west of Chaska to a two-lane highway, then switches back to a four-lane highway around Cologne and back to a two-lane highway from Cologne to Norwood Young America and would be much safer and much better able to handle present and projected traffic flows if it were a continuous four-lane highway through this area;

WHEREAS Congress and the State of Minnesota have recognized the need to expand this critical trade link to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and have previously provided funding through the ISTEPA Transportation Authorization bill, TEA-21 Authorization bill, the 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill, the 2003 Transportation Appropriations bill, the 2004 Transportation Appropriations bill and SAFETEA-LU;

WHEREAS multi-modal connections to or near Highway 212 include: freight rail lines, intermodal terminals, park-and-ride lots, transit service, state trails and airports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission strongly supports funding from the Corridors of Commerce program to support the \$110 million of needed improvements that will complete the highway to a continuous four-lane highway to Norwood Young America and that any maps or lists of Corridors of Commerce highways include US Highway 212.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donn Winckler, Acting Secretary

Kevin Crowley, Chairperson

Robert Moller, Secretary

Resolution in Support of Funding for Minnesota Highway 23 South Gap Project Through the Corridor of Commerce Program

WHEREAS Minnesota State Highway 23 serves a critical role in connecting level one and two Regional Trade Centers of Duluth-Superior, St Cloud, Willmar, Marshall, and Sioux Falls SD, and would also provide 4 lane access from Willmar to the Twin Cities markets via TH 23 and I-94;

WHEREAS TH 23 is a principal arterial highway that is on the National Highway System and on the Minnesota Interregional Corridor System serving as a key artery for the regional economy;

WHEREAS TH 23 serves as an important freight route, where a recent MnDOT District 8 Manufacturer's Perspective on Transportation Study demonstrated that the corridor was a critical connection to deliver goods to national and international markets.

WHEREAS MnDOT has completed environmental reviews and preliminary design plans for both Highway 23 four lane gaps between New London and Richmond;

WHEREAS all but 15 miles of Highway 23 between Willmar and Interstate 94 and St. Cloud are four lanes.

WHEREAS the current highway poses serious safety problems as it switches back and forth between a four-lane and two-lane highway between New London and St Cloud where it would be much safer and much better able to handle present and projected traffic flows if it were a continuous four-lane highway through this area;

WHEREAS multi-modal connections to or near TH 23 include: freight rail lines, intermodal terminals, park-and-ride lots, transit service, state trails and airports.

WHEREAS, completing the two four-lane gaps is a major goal of the Minnesota Highway 23 Coalition, which is a committed and concerned group of Business, City, County, and Nonprofit Organization members that is officially organized with an elected board of directors;

WHEREAS the Corridor of Commerce program was created to accelerate improvements to corridors that are not being addressed through the regular program, including projects that span multiple MnDOT districts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission strongly supports the inclusion of funding from the Corridors of Commerce program to support the necessary funding needed to complete the 2-lane to 4-lane expansion of Hwy 23 from New London to Paynesville, 500 feet east of Kandiyohi County Road 31 to 2,250 feet east of Kandiyohi County Road 6.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donn Winckler, Acting Secretary

Kevin Crowley, Chairperson

Robert Moller, Secretary

Resolution in Support of Funding for Minnesota Highway 23 North Gap Project Through the Corridor of Commerce Program

WHEREAS Minnesota State Highway 23 serves a critical role in connecting level one and two Regional Trade Centers of Duluth-Superior, St Cloud, Willmar, Marshall, and Sioux Falls SD, and would also provide 4 lane access from Willmar to the Twin Cities markets via TH 23 and I-94;

WHEREAS TH 23 is a principal arterial highway that is on the National Highway System and on the Minnesota Interregional Corridor System serving as a key artery for the regional economy;

WHEREAS TH 23 serves as an important freight route, where a recent MnDOT District 8 Manufacturer's Perspective on Transportation Study demonstrated that the corridor was a critical connection to deliver goods to national and international markets.

WHEREAS MnDOT has completed environmental reviews and preliminary design plans for both Highway 23 four lane gaps between New London and Richmond;

WHEREAS all but 15 miles of Highway 23 between Willmar and Interstate 94 and St. Cloud are four lanes.

WHEREAS the current highway poses serious safety problems as it switches back and forth between a four-lane and two-lane highway between New London and St Cloud where it would be much safer and much better able to handle present and projected traffic flows if it were a continuous four-lane highway through this area;

WHEREAS multi-modal connections to or near TH 23 include: freight rail lines, intermodal terminals, park-and-ride lots, transit service, state trails and airports.

WHEREAS, completing the two four-lane gaps is a major goal of the Minnesota Highway 23 Coalition, which is a committed and concerned group of Business, City, County, and Nonprofit Organization members that is officially organized with an elected board of directors;

WHEREAS the Corridor of Commerce program was created to accelerate improvements to corridors that are not being addressed through the regular program, including projects that span multiple MnDOT districts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission strongly supports the inclusion of funding from the Corridors of Commerce program to support the necessary funding needed to complete the 2-lane to 4-lane expansion of Hwy 23 from the Cities of Paynesville to Richmond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donn Winckler, Acting Secretary

Kevin Crowley, Chairperson

Robert Moller, Secretary