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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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April 29, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Hwy 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge project in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Carver County located at 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322. The funding would be used to complete the design engineering and environmental documentation to continue the development for expanding the 2-lane section of Highway 5 to a 4-lane expressway between Minnewashta Parkway and TH 41 as well as intersection capacity improvements for the TH 5/TH 41 intersection.

Highway 5 is an arterial regional freight and commuter corridor that connects neighborhoods, cities, job centers, and regional destinations. Its primary purpose is to move traffic safely and efficiently – today neither of these purposes are realized. Within the project area, there have been 187 crashes (47 injury) in the past five years producing a crash rate 2.5 times the state average for similar roadways. By 2040, the projected increase in traffic will result in 180,000 hours of annual delay experienced by drivers during peak periods (almost 700 hours a day). The proposed project will reduce delay by over 70% for 2040 projected traffic volumes and safely serve all users in the corridor.

Decades ago, Highway 5 was constructed across Lake Minnewashta, on a land bridge. Understanding the many environmental resources around the project, including the lake, the project will elevate Highway 5 over Lake Minnewashta and reconnect the lake. In addition, the severe congestion that occurs every day will be greatly reduced, thus improving air quality. Pedestrian accommodations will be enhanced, tying the community into planned and existing grade separations on the regional trail network.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Please know that I appreciate your consideration of my requests and look forward to working with you as the appropriations process moves forward. If you have questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Phillips', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress