



Carlton County, Minnesota

# Transportation Department

Roads Bridges Airports Trails

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1630 County Road 61, Carlton, Minnesota 55718

Office: 218-384-9150 Cloquet Airport: 218-879-4911

[www.co.carlton.mn.us](http://www.co.carlton.mn.us)

January 28, 2022

Congressman Pete Stauber  
Minnesota 8<sup>th</sup> District  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

Dear Congressman Stauber:

This letter is in support of the reconstruction of the eight (8) miles of Trunk Highway (TH) 73 south of the City of Cromwell. The Carlton County Board has supported the Highway 73 Action Committee in their quest for funding for the reconstruction of TH 73.

As the Carlton County Engineer, I see the need to improve safety for both pedestrians, cyclists and motorists along TH 73. I believe a reconstruction project will have a positive impact on the community and will greatly increase the safety of the traveling public.

I am signing this letter in support of the Highway 73 Action Committee's quest for funding to reconstruct 8 miles of TH 73 south of the City of Cromwell. If you have any questions, please contact me at 218-384-9150 or [JinYeene.Neumann@co.carlton.mn.us](mailto:JinYeene.Neumann@co.carlton.mn.us).

Sincerely,

JinYeene Neumann  
Carlton County Engineer

April 5, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
Senate Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir,

After much discussion by the Automba Town Board I was asked to write to you about the continuing poor condition of 8 miles of Hwy. 73 south of Cromwell. Our history is a rich one. Before the 1918 Fire we had a busy timber boom town called Automba and had 1000 people working the immediate area feeding three sawmills with logs and shipping thousands of gondolas and boxcars on the Soo Line Railroad.

Our dairy farms are gone, the beef farms are disappearing, and our population continues to decrease. We need economic development but are crippled by the poor condition of Hwy. 73 south of Cromwell. Total reconstruction of that eight miles has been promised many times but nothing happens.

Most of our working families have to use that road and others to travel to work, some as far as Duluth. With new infrastructure money being considered, we have hope that the eight miles south of Cromwell will finally be fixed and if possible the whole avenue of commerce from Moose Lake to Cromwell.

We need your help and consideration,

Supervisor Deane Rengo  
6557 CR 6  
Kettle River, Mn 55757  
218-273-0006

Senator Jason Rarick

95 University Avenue West

Minnesota Senate Building RM 3411

St Paul MN 55155

My name is Douglas J Suhonen. I grew up in Wright MN, graduating from Cromwell in 1967. I have probably driven HWY 73 south of Cromwell several thousand times. I have seen many potential accident occurrences many times. Just a couple weeks ago A semitruck was having issues and had to pull to the side. He tried to park on crest of a hill so traffic from both north and south could see him. As I met him two cars who had not slowed down passed the truck which was half in southbound lane narrowly missing me as I headed to what little shoulder there is.

I had an issue with a motorcycle as I was heading north many years ago but there is no shoulder to park or work on it which was a huge safety concern so had to push to private property until fixing issue. This all while traffic is speeding by.

As an Electrical contractor I had two separate trailer issues while transporting rented equipment in this 8 mile stretch of road. As there is no possible way to get out of traffic lane, I had to struggle to get to someone's private driveway to simply get out of harms way.

This road has been listed for appropriations several times but has never been reconstructed as it should have been. Many years ago land was purchased by the State of MN to straighten two of the 4 ninety degree corners. The land owners built new houses but the road in that area still has about a one foot shoulder and a six foot deep ditch.

Christmas season in 2021 my family in three different vehicles traveled north on 73 from Moose Lake area in a snow storm about 10pm. Knowing there is no shoulder and not wanting to have snow pull us to the ditch had to ride the center rumble strip just to know where we were.

These are a few of the many unsafe things that I have witnessed. As truck, Recreational, and general traffic increases these safety issues will cause the fatality rate on this eight mile stretch of unsafe highway to increase unless it gets a much needed reconstruction.

Douglas J Suhonen

April 8, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
Senate Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir,

I am a business owner in Western Carlton County who has a spruce tip and ornamental business each fall for 45 years. I was a logging contractor for many years in this area, born and raised here and of fifth generation stock in Automba Township. In the last 60 years I have watched our rural areas lose our farming and logging base and our small towns almost disappear.

With the advent of a major push by the Federal government to provide dependable broadband to our area, this move has given us hope. Young families with children working from home using dependable broadband can make a revitalization of our rural areas from a dream to reality.

Yet, a faulty transportation artery, depending on heavy truck use and major recreational traffic, exists in 8 miles of Highway 73 south of Cromwell. Most of the roadbed stays above the swamp areas due to corduroy installed 100 years ago. Dedicated funding for that road has been taken for other projects in Northeast Minnesota several times and minimal repairs have been used to get by.

This road brings painful memories for me. I lost two classmates in accidents on that piece of highway. At one point, because of a bus driver's negligence, I had to decide, with a fully loaded pulp truck, whether to roll the truck and spill my load over bus and children, or drive the truck straight into a highway approach to only be responsible for killing myself. Fortunately, the children ran off the roadway and a major accident was averted.

Please help us get the necessary funding to rectify a 100 year old injustice.

Thank you in advance for your help and your willingness to listen,

Dan Reed, owner  
Automba Trees  
6999 Reed Lane  
Kettle River MN 55757  
218-273-6103  
reed.dan1949@gmail.com



January 24, 2022

Honorable Congressman Pete Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway, Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

RE: Letter of Support for Improvements to Highway 73

Congressman Stauber,

This letter is in support of the proposed improvements to Highway 73, specifically the approximately eight-mile section south of Highway 210. This road serves hundreds of residents, a school, has major recreation travel during all seasons, and a high volume of over-the-road truck traffic. This section of road has very sharp corners and basically has no shoulders making it a huge safety hazard each and every time someone has vehicle trouble. It is also very rough and damaged, which causes frustration for so many that use the road to get to their destination safely.

Please place this improvement on your list of top priorities as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Larry D Peterson, CEO

*Open the door to your  
financial security*



**MAIN:**  
400 Elm Avenue, P.O. Box 429  
Moose Lake, Minnesota 55767  
Telephone: (218)485-4441  
Facsimile: (218)485-8566

[www.firstmooselake.com](http://www.firstmooselake.com)  
Toll Free (866)333-4441

**BRANCH:**  
20 Hartman Drive  
Moose Lake, Minnesota 55767  
Telephone: (218)485-0565  
Facsimile: (218)485-5720

January 26, 2022

To: The Honorable Congressman Pete Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

From: Lake Theatre  
Moose Lake, MN

Dear Sir,

This letter is in support of the proposed improvements to Hwy 73, specifically the eight-mile section south of Hwy 210. As a small business in Moose Lake, we depend on Hwy 73 to bring business into our community. It is a very heavily travelled Hwy by local and tourist traffic heading through Moose Lake. It receives heavy use by semitrucks and other large vehicles which further the need for improvements. Many of our town's businesses depend on this traffic to make a living. Currently Hwy 73 is a very narrow road with no shoulders and is dangerous to drive on. With improvements by the State, it could be made much safer and a more desirable route to travel and do business.

Sincerely,  
Lake Theatre  
Walter Lower III

# STRAIGHTLINE

## SURVEYING

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Congressman Pete Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900  
Hermantown MN 55811

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed improvements to Highway 73, especially the approximate eight-mile section south of Highway 210.

StraightLine Surveying performs numerous surveys located out in that area. We utilize that route for many of them.

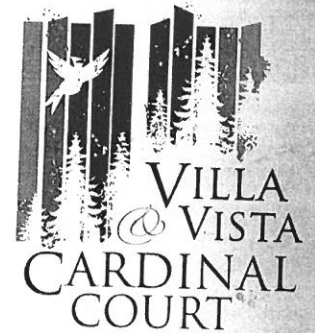
The safety of our crew is very important to us. That is why we are requesting that funding go to the up keep of this portion of the Highway.

**StraightLine Surveying, Inc.**



Benjamin H. Anderson  
Owner





RE: Rebuild 8 miles of Highway 73

To whom it may concern:

I have served as an EMT and firefighter in the Cromwell area for the last 37 years. During this time, there have been many vehicle crashes on the 8 mile stretch south of Cromwell on Trunk Highway 73. I have seen the pain of loss on many faces from these accidents. It is that much more difficult because I know many of these crashes could have been prevented by rebuilding these 8 miles.

It has been the Fire District's goal to have zero deaths on our highways. MnDOT is doing it's best to meet this same goal of zero deaths. With your support, MNDOT can get closer to this goal by using needed resources to make this stretch of Highway 73 safer - by building shoulders and a stable road bed, improving the 10 blind intersections with Carlton County roads, and straightening out the four nearly 90 degree corners.

The Coalition has been successful in helping to get much of Trunk Hwy 73 rebuilt, "Hibbing and Floodwood areas". except for these 8 miles south of Cromwell. I believe this rebuild can get done with your support.

Thank you for all you do in making Minnesota the great state it is.

Respectfully yours

  
Charles Mike Peterson  
Retired Asst. Fire Chief  
Training Officer  
President Villa Court LLC  
1220 Villa Court Circile  
Cromwell, MN 55726  
[cmpcando@yahoo.com](mailto:cmpcando@yahoo.com)  
cell 218 390 1175

PO BOX 98 | 1220 VILLA COURT DRIVE | CROMWELL, MN 55726

FAMILY CARING FOR FAMILY

218.644.3331 PHONE | 218.644.3505 FAX | [WWW.VILLACOURTCROMWELL.COM](http://WWW.VILLACOURTCROMWELL.COM)

## **CROMWELL-WRIGHT**

**Station 1  
5592 Highway 210  
Cromwell, MN 55726  
218-644-3547**



## **AREA FIRE DISTRICT**

**Station 2  
1426 3rd Street  
Wright, MN 55798  
218-357-2332**

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Jason Rarick  
95 University Ave W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

This letter is in reference to the Highway 73 improvement project that is once again currently being discussed. This stretch of road south of Cromwell with its poor visibility on major curves and no shoulder has created hazards to motorists for decades. As the Fire District that covers this area for emergency response, we see time and time again the dangers these curves present. A majority of the motor vehicle collisions we respond to are on these curves. This places the Fire District members at great risk while working these scenes as there is no place for us to safely stage and operate. This stretch of road has been the cause of many fatal accidents. It is time for this to change. We need to stop putting people at risk for an issue that is fixable.

It is no longer acceptable to continue to put off this project. It needs to be corrected. This is not only in the best interest of those driving on Hwy 73 but also important to for the mental health of the men and women serving their community and seeing the needless tragedies that continue to take place on this stretch of road. Please support the funding of this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucas Goodin".

Lucas Goodin, NRP  
Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director  
[Lgoodin@CromwellWrightFire.us](mailto:Lgoodin@CromwellWrightFire.us)

# City of Cromwell

1272 Hwy. 73, PO Box 74  
Cromwell, MN 55726  
Ph: 218-644-3570 | Fax: 218-644-3204  
Email: [cityofcromwell@frontiernet.net](mailto:cityofcromwell@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [cromwell.govoffice.com](http://cromwell.govoffice.com)

Mayor: Sharon Zelazny  
Councilors: Raymond Lally  
Ed Raisanen  
Lisa Irving  
Alex French

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January 10, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
MN Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

Re: Highway 73, South of Cromwell, Improvements

Dear Senator Rarick,

In recent years the Cromwell City Council has worked hard to bring improvements, growth and economic development to our small city. We are committed to improving the quality of life for the people here as well as attract additional residents and business. As you well know the biggest challenge facing small rural cities is funding. Believing that our area residents and visitors deserve the same safe place to live, as those in highly populated areas, how do we bring these critical safety measures to them?

The recently passed infrastructure bill will contain funding for critical safety needs. Highway 73 south of Cromwell deserves funding for improved safety. I urge you to come to visit us in Cromwell, and within minutes you will meet many people that will tell you horrific stories about someone they knew that was severely injured, or died, on that unsafe stretch of highway.

From an economic standpoint, we are working to bring business to Cromwell. That highway is a hindrance to that effort. The poor condition of the highway encourages people to take alternate routes. We need support that is beyond our ability for this highway improvement. We believe this infrastructure funding to improve Highway 73 South of Cromwell will not only dramatically improve the safety for residents and visitors, but will also have a direct correlation on Cromwell's ability to prosper.

Please consider this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (218)390-9925.

Sincerely,



Sharon Zelazny  
Mayor



Independent School District No. 95

Cromwell-Wright Public School

January 24, 2022

Dear Honorable Senator Jason Rarick:

My name is Nathan Libbon, and I am the Superintendent/Principal at Cromwell-Wright School, I.S.D 95, and have also been a resident of the Cromwell-Wright School District for the past fourteen years.

I am writing to ask for your support to secure funding from the Infrastructure bill to make much needed safety improvements to Highway 73. The area of Highway 73 that is of the greatest concern is the eight-mile stretch south of Cromwell. It has dangerous curves and corners, poor visibility at approaches, no shoulder, and a poor sub roadbed. Adding to the dangers is the high amount of heavy truck traffic. This stretch of road is used on a daily basis during the school year by staff members, students, and community members. Our school buses load and unload students and travel to and from various activities on this dangerous stretch of highway.

I hope you will support funding to improve Highway 73 and help ensure the safety of our students and community members.

Sincerely,

*Nathan R. Libbon*

Nathan R. Libbon, Superintendent/Principal

EAGLE TOWNSHIP

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5687 Strand Road, Cromwell, MN 55726

April 14, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
95 University Avenue W.  
**Minnesota Senate Bldg.**, Room 3411.  
St. Paul, **MN** 55155

RE: Highway 73 – 8 miles South of Cromwell

Dear Senator Rarick:

The Eagle Township Board of Supervisors directed me to write you regarding the continuing poor condition of the 8 mile stretch of Highway 73 south of Cromwell.

This highway section has been under discussion for many decades. At the Carlton County Association of Township Officers meeting this past fall, you stated there was new infrastructure money coming from the Federal Government. Dan Reed from Automba Township stated that Highway 73 was promised to be reconstructed right after World War II ended! You can imagine the sentiment that exists among Eagle Township members (and voters) who have been by-passed on important and needed projects time and time again! Patience is a virtue, but now with funding dispersal being decided, we are raising strong voices to get this project on the books!

Highway 73 runs right down the middle of Eagle Township. Our supervisors just reviewed the Road Order dated 1897. It is a very busy highway, with continual semi-trucks, logging trucks, transport trucks, heavy weekend boat, RV, and hunting traffic, as well as school bus and mail carrier traffic. It serves both Island Lake and Eagle Lake traffic.

As you are probably aware, Highway 73 south of Cromwell includes two very dangerous curves (1/2 mile south of Cromwell and again at County Road 4 and Herranen Road intersections) which have caused mortalities in the past. There are no shoulders. People have died going off the road and in the ditch. There are no by-pass turn lanes. Sight distance is compromised at Island Lake Road, Kingsley Road, Strand Road, County Road 4 and 4 Corners Road intersections.

Now is the time to take action to rebuild this road to meet current safety and design specifications.

We look forward to hearing that this project has finally been approved and scheduled for completion.

Thank you,

Debra Switzer, Clerk  
Eagle Township  
[debswitzer@hotmail.com](mailto:debswitzer@hotmail.com)  
218-340-1968

CC: Loran Shelton, Chairperson, Eagle Township Board of Supervisors,  
[loransshelton@hotmail.com](mailto:loransshelton@hotmail.com)

Ken Koivisto, Road Supervisor, Eagle Township Board of Supervisors,  
[eagleroadsupervisor@outlook.com](mailto:eagleroadsupervisor@outlook.com)

Rob Switzer, Vice-Chairperson, Eagle Township Board of Supervisors,  
[robswitzer@msn.com](mailto:robswitzer@msn.com)

April 14, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
95 University Avenue W.  
**Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3411.**  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Highway 73 South of Cromwell

Dear Senator Rarick:

As a resident living on Highway 73 South of Cromwell, I am writing this letter to urge you to put the reconstruction of Highway 73 on the front burner. I understand there is federal funding available, and decisions are being made about how to spend it. I am also aware there is a strong grass-roots effort to make our Cromwell area voices heard.

I grew up on Highway 73 just north of Cromwell, where the Villa Vista Nursing Home is now located. I attended college in Duluth at UMD and St. Scholastica. I lived in Wright for 28 years, and I now reside two miles south on Strand Road. For the past four years, in our retirement, my husband and I have witnessed and experienced the danger of turning onto our road off Highway 73. Because of the way the road is constructed, sight distance is non-existent until you reach the east turn-off to Strand Road. That danger occurs each time I drive home. That is just one thing.

The rest of my concerns stem from observing and being aware of accidents, concerns and stories told by countless residents and family members in the Cromwell area. My husband and I sit on our front porch and watch the traffic on Highway 73. There is a continual stream of trucks, cars, pickups with trailers or RVs, or boats. We have seen vehicles hit the ditch, both in summer and winter. They go too fast, the road is not designed well, and voila!—they are in the ditch! We recently saw a car full of young parents and four kids in the ditch during a severe snow storm. We stopped to see if they had called for help; the driver said, "I was run right off the road by the semi-truck." This was on the corner by Kingsley Road....very easy to not see where to go, and just drive right into the ditch. In addition, this past winter, three separate vehicles have left the roadway and ended up in the ditch or field of our property which runs ¼ mile north of Strand Road.

My brother went off the corner in a vehicle turnover on Highway 73 next to W. Island Lake Road back in high school. I remember my mother being upset because he didn't look like himself in his senior picture. He had suffered damage to his facial bones in that accident. Lucky to be alive! That same corner still exists in the same shape as back in the mid-1950's.

Highway 73 has virtually no shoulders. I've talked to people who won't drive this road because of this fact. It is too dangerous. Certainly, with the year being 2022, we shouldn't be talking any longer about a State of Minnesota highway using this language.

My brother-in-law Bill Switzer and wife Denise live on the corner next to the County Road 4 intersection. This is a most dangerous corner. Whenever we go there, which sometimes includes pulling a pick-up and trailer, we have to use EXTREME CAUTION to pull out onto Highway 73, or even to turn off the highway into his driveway. His corner land was bought by MN DOT decades ago – their house was demolished – they built a new house farther back - and they were paid for the land so that corner could be straightened out. And nothing has happened since!

Highway 73 has no by-pass lanes. It is extremely dangerous to turn onto Lippo Lane, Heather Lane, W. Island Lake Road, Eagle Lake Road, 4 Corners Road east or west, Strand Road, Kingsley Road, Debele Road, County Rd 4, Herranen Road, Mononen Road, Tammi Road, Hill Road, or Stenberg Road. Eagle Township has the highest population of townships in our area, and many of these roads have multiple residences. This necessitates the school bus or mail carrier to have to turn onto these side roads.

As you can see, this is a big concern. We don't want you to think we are just sending form letters, or taking this in stride, thinking our letters won't do any good. We want you to come out and see for yourself. We invite you to stop at our home at 5687 Strand Road, Cromwell, MN 55726.

In closing, please take our concerns seriously. We would love to hear from you and have you stop over. Come for a cup of coffee and sit and watch the traffic. Check out the road as I've described. You can call 218-340-1968 or just stop in.

Sincerely,

Debra Switzer  
5687 Strand Road  
Cromwell MN 55726  
218-340-1968  
debswitzer@hotmail.com




April 14, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
MN Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

Congressman Rarick,

Highway 73, 8 miles south of Cromwell has been a problem for over 70 years. I was Mayor of Cromwell in 1980-1990 and tried to get something done with that stretch of road but with no avail. Now 40 years later, we still haven't moved forward. Over these 40 years, accidents and deaths have happened. There are no shoulders to rely on so that a car can safely pull over in case of an emergency. If anyone rides a bike or even walks on that 8 mile stretch, you're taking your life in your hands. Everyone in our surrounding area can vouch for straightening the curves and widening the road. This has been a sore spot for motorists all over the country, visitors and residents alike. So can't we get some funding to rebuild the highway before more deaths and accidents arise in the future. Fifty plus years of useless overlays certainly does not solve the problem. This has gone on long enough. It's time to move forward and get something done.

Respectfully,



Raymond M. Lally  
Former Mayor and Current Councilman

January 12, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
MN Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

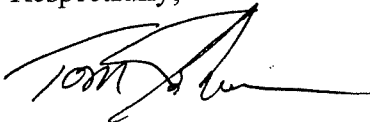
Dear Senator Rarick,

As a member of the Cromwell-Wright Fire and Ambulance staff for seventeen years, I have seen many accidents on Highway 73. Some were fatal and some just fender dents. Most of the bad accidents occur on the curves and some because of no shoulder and deep ditches.

I have worked for the City of Cromwell since 2005. The former mayor said that he had been trying to fix Highway 73 for many years. I would attend meetings with him and Dan Reed of Kettle River, who had also been working a long time to fix Highway 73. The former mayor and I would go to MnDot meetings in Duluth and they would call us the Highway 73 men, not knowing our names, just our faces.

I hope you can work hard to find the money to repair Highway 73 before someone else get killed on that dangerous road.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Johnson  
5272 Krogh Rd  
Cromwell, MN 55726

"We Need Your Help to Improve Highway 73"

Gwendolyn H. Koecher  
3548 Old Highway 61  
Barnum, MN 55707  
218-460-8838

January 10, 2022

The Honorable Congressman Jason Rarick  
MN Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55107

Dear Congressman-

I am the City Clerk of Cromwell and I currently travel Highway 73 Monday – Thursday, fifty weeks a year. Six and one half miles of my work commute is on Highway 73, traveling from Barnum, MN to Cromwell, MN. The one half mile corners from Kingsley Road to West Island Lake Road are some of the most dangerous parts of my drive as the speed is set higher than it should be (40 mph), the ditches are steep and with having open fields on both sides it acts as a wind tunnel in this area. Creating black ice covered roads (nine months out of the year) with the potential of extremely low visibility along without a safety of a road shoulder. I encourage you to take a drive through the curves on 73 to fully understand the hazards.

I support improving Highway 73, I know it will be a temporary disruption for a season or two however the improved impact it will have for our citizens and travels would be greatly beneficial to us all.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Gwendolyn H. Koecher

Ann Markusen and Rod Walli  
1161 Villa Vista Circle  
Wright MN 55798

Senator Jason Rarick  
MN Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Senator Rarick,

I'm a voter and constituent living in Red Clover Township, just north of Cromwell, Minnesota. I am a retired economist and a regular columnist in the Cloquet Pine Knot, the Voyageur of McGregor and the Floodwood Forum of Floodwood. My husband, Rod Walli, is a retired math and psychology teacher at Cromwell-Wright School.

We are writing in support of the proposed Highway 73 project that will eliminate the two dangerously-curved corners within a quarter mile of each other, not far south of the City of Cromwell, requiring sudden slowdowns. It is difficult to see around these corners as one approaches. Both have been the sites of multiple accidents over the years. This stretch lacks shoulders, exacerbating the potential for careening off the road. It is a route heavily used by large trucks. Studies have confirmed that the highway rests on poor sub-roadbed.

We are so pleased that the federal infrastructure bill has passed Congress. We hope that the funds available will be devoted to small projects like these, including many bridges that need shoring up across the US and including in our area of Minnesota.

Please support this overdue local project, which means so much to our community's safe driving.

Regards,

Ann Markusen [markusen@umn.edu](mailto:markusen@umn.edu)  
Rodney Walli [rgwalli@gmail.com](mailto:rgwalli@gmail.com)

April 14, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
MN Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

Congressman Rarick,

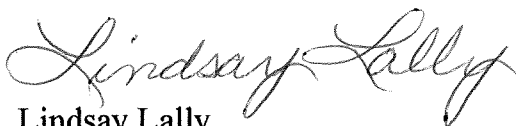
I am a concerned Senior Citizen, living in Cromwell, asking for your support and help in repairing and improving an 8 mile stretch of Highway 73, south of Cromwell. I have lived here all of my life.

This highway was in the process of being fixed in the late 1960's when I was in college but unfortunately before it was to be straightened out and repaired, a University of Minnesota, (Minneapolis) student from Cromwell was the one person who was totally responsible for not getting our highway fixed. This student started a petition stating that and prevented the 8 mile highway to be worked on – mainly because he lived on the land that needed to be bought to improve the highway. The very tragic part of this petition that was signed by hundreds of University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus, was that none of those signatures lived in this area, except one, but that petition, signed by students from the main University shut down the project. A petition that should never have been acknowledged as the students were from Minneapolis and not Cromwell and they had no idea about the problems 8 miles south of Cromwell on Highway 73. That was the travesty that decided the fate of the Highway 73 project. And 50+ years later we are still working on trying to straighten out the curves and make shoulders wider for a safer highway.

So, is it possible that there might be hope to secure some funding from the Infrastructure bill?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Lindsay Lally  
Retired Elementary Teacher

Senator Jason Rarick  
Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

Senator Jason Rarick:

As a local homeowner in Cromwell, MN, and someone who regularly drives between Cromwell and Moose Lake on Hwy 73, it is vital to me and my friends and family that Hwy 73 south of Cromwell MN is updated to ensure that it is safer for drivers.

In July of 2021, my mother was in a car accident on the S curves by County Road 4, as an oncoming car crossed lanes on the S curve. Thankfully she recovered from the accident with minor injuries, but the next person may not be so lucky.

Please help secure funding to update the eight mile stretch of Hwy 73 south of Cromwell, MN.

Thank you,  
Naomi Johnson

*Patricia L. Hanauer  
1016 Honeysuckle Lane  
Farmington, Minnesota 55024*

January 29, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3411  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Rarick:

I am a retired educator who used to live in Hibbing. Although my home is now in Farmington, I visit friends and relatives on the Range frequently and they visit me.

Each time one of us makes the trip, we ask, "How was the drive?" and invariably "the curves" on Highway 73 are discussed as being dangerous.

Your attention to this highway issue is important as a solution will make that drive much safer and our conversations can be about what a smart thing it was to improve the visibility and reduce the sharp turns.

Sincerely,

Patricia L Hanauer

## Sharon Zelazny

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**From:** Carl Switzer <carl8switzer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 1:29 PM  
**To:** mayorofcromwell@frontier.com  
**Subject:** Hwy 73

Dear Senator Jason Rarick and to else this may concern

Hello my name is Carl Switzer. I'm father to 5 girls and a husband to my wonderful wife. I'm a life long resident of the Cromwell area and have lived in a ten mile radius of my home for 41 years I have made my profession as a union Plumber with my wife being a kindergarten teacher. This letter is concerning Highway 73 rebuild. I personally have had numerous encounters with cars crashing in the ditch. Family's driving at 9pm at night not knowing when they will get out of the ditch. " I didn't see the sharp corners" or " there is no shoulders on this road". People trying to exercise with their bikes getting run off the road by a Walmart semi's. Many blind hills when you pull out of your driveway hoping no one is coming. There is many scary things about the road that locals have gotten use to. Locals aren't the only ones traveling this road. We just want it SAFE. I want my kids to be able to drive safe on these roads. I would happily talk more in detail if you prefer, or you could go for a ride along with me to get a true opinion of the road.

Sincerely  
Carl Switzer  
218-390-3025



January 21, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
MN Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

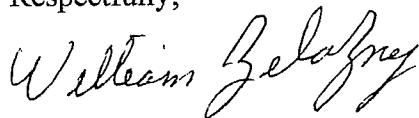
Dear Senator Rarick,

I have lived in Floodwood and then Cromwell for my entire life. Highway 73, south of Cromwell has always been a part of my life. Being the main highway artery taking us to Highway 35, I have traveled it countless times.

This stretch of highway is very dangerous and I can speak to that from experience. My Godmother was killed on the second set of curves south of Cromwell many years ago. Those curves were dangerous then, and this many years later, they are still dangerous. I know we are a rural area, but don't the people of this area, as well as the many visitors that travel that highway, deserve a safe road to travel? The curves are dangerous, there are no shoulders, deep ditches, and poor visibility. There are countless stories from people in Cromwell about the close calls, people they know that have died on that highway and the problems the no shoulders have caused. Some of these stories date back many years and stories continue right up to the present.

Please, please consider supporting this important overdue project. I believe lives will be saved as a result.

Respectfully,



William Zelazny  
1270 South Point Rd  
Cromwell, MN 55726

620 Center Road  
Wright, Mn 55798

Dear Senator Rarick,

I am writing regarding the improvements needed to Highway 73, South of Cromwell, MN.

This highway has needed improvements for the past 50 years or more and every time money has been designated for this project the money was diverted to other parts of Minnesota.

A couple of years ago, my son was driving on HWY 73 about 5 miles South of Cromwell when his tie rod broke on the pick-up he was driving. The truck veered to the right and instead of being able to pull off on a shoulder, his truck went into the ditch, careened over a driveway, and ended up 40 feet into a farmer's field. Fortunately, he wasn't hurt, but if the truck had rolled, he may have been killed.

Many years ago, when I was teaching 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in Cromwell, I had my students interview older adults about their lives. One student interviewed Hulda Hill and as part of her story, when she was asked how old she was, she said she was older than HWY 73 and in **better shape, too!** I never forgot that one as HWY 73 is still in tough shape and she never lived to see the improvements that were and are still needed.

So, please support the improvements that are desperately needed to HWY # 73. And now is the best time as the City of Cromwell is getting a Highway # 210 make over this coming summer.

Sincerely, — *I also met you briefly at the Cardinal Court in Cromwell when you were running for senator!*  
*Jennie K. Hanson*

Jennie K. Hanson, age: 76 - Concerned Citizen And:

- \*Beseman Township Resident- 52 years.
- \*Lifelong resident of the Cromwell and Wright Area. Growing up on a farm in Red Clover Township.
- \*Cromwell-Wright Educator since 1968, 32 years full-time and 23 years as a much needed Substitute teacher.
- \*Past President of REAM 2018-2020
- \*News correspondent since 1982
- \*President of the Cromwell Area Senior Citizens Club

Phone Number 218-357-2385 Cell # 808-366-6582

Email address: [jkh4president@hotmail.com](mailto:jkh4president@hotmail.com)

## **MCF - Willow River/Moose Lake**

Date: 01/18/22

To: Congressman Pete Stauber

From: Kris Rish, Acting Warden



### **RE: Letter of Support for Improvements to Highway 73**

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This letter is in support of the proposed improvements to Highway 73, specifically the approximately eight-mile section south of Highway 210. The State of Minnesota - Department of Corrections employs over 430 staff between our Moose Lake and Willow River facilities. Many of those staff utilized the specified corridor, often during early hours of the day, prior to plows / improvements to road conditions. The safety of our staff is paramount, and we hope for the safety of all who travel this section of road the requested funds are allocated in the upcoming infrastructure bill. Thank you!

# Moose Lake Police Department

Darren W. Juntunen  
Chief of Police

600 Hwy 73  
Moose Lake, MN 55767



Date: 01/24/2022

To: Congressman Pete Stauber

From: Darren Juntunen, Chief of Police

RE: Letter of Support for Improvements to Highway 73

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the proposed improvements to an eight (8) mile section of Highway 73 south of Highway 210. As a former Lieutenant with the Minnesota State Patrol and current Chief of Police for the City of Moose Lake, I have responded to several crashes along this stretch of highway. Traffic safety is a top priority for law enforcement and I fully support funding in the upcoming infrastructure bill for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren W. Juntunen".

Darren W. Juntunen  
Chief of Police



# CARLTON COUNTY

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

317 Walnut Avenue, P.O. Box 530, Carlton, Minnesota 55718

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**Kelly A. Lake, Sheriff**

February 15, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
Capitol Office  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Rm #3411  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Rarick:

Please consider this letter my support for the rebuilding of Highway 73, particularly the 8 mile stretch south of Cromwell in Carlton County. Highway 73 serves as a main north-south connector route from I-35 in Moose Lake to the Iron Range cities. This roadway has a significant amount of traffic traveling on it daily. The stretch south of Cromwell has little to no shoulder, making it a traffic hazard should cars become disabled. The roadway is narrow, with areas of winding curves and limited visibility. There are many times where emergency vehicle response is hampered because traffic in front of the responding vehicles is simply unable to pull to the side of the road to allow responders through. In my 30 years spent with the Sheriff's Office, myself and fellow law enforcement have responded to many vehicle crashes, including personal injury and fatal crashes on this stretch of highway. In the interest of public safety, I believe this roadway should be rebuilt to allow for safe passage of the motoring public for many years to come.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Sheriff Kelly Lake

**ADMINISTRATION**

Phone: (218) 384-3236

Fax: (218) 384-9183

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Phone: (218) 384-9520

Fax: (218) 384-9426

**CORRECTIONS**

Phone: (218) 384-4560

Fax: (218) 384-9185

# City of Cromwell

1272 Hwy. 73, PO Box 74  
Cromwell, MN 55726  
Ph: 218-644-3570 | Fax: 218-644-3204  
Email: [cityofcromwell@frontiernet.net](mailto:cityofcromwell@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [cromwell.govoffice.com](http://cromwell.govoffice.com)

Mayor: Sharon Zelazny  
Councilors: Raymond Lally  
Ed Raisanen  
Lisa Irving  
Alex French

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January 10, 2022

Congressman Pete Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

Re: Highway 73, South of Cromwell, Improvements

Dear Congressman Stauber,

In recent years the Cromwell City Council has worked hard to bring improvements, growth and economic development to our small city. We are committed to improving the quality of life for the people here as well as attract additional residents and business. As you well know the biggest challenge facing small rural cities is funding. Believing that our area residents and visitors deserve the same safe place to live, as those in highly populated areas, how do we bring these critical safety measures to them?

The recently passed infrastructure bill will contain funding for critical safety needs. Highway 73 south of Cromwell deserves funding for improved safety. I urge you to come to visit us in Cromwell, and within minutes you will meet many people that will tell you horrific stories about someone they knew that was severely injured, or died, on that unsafe stretch of highway.

From an economic standpoint, we are working to bring business to Cromwell. That highway is a hindrance to that effort. The poor condition of the highway encourages people to take alternate routes. We need support that is beyond our ability for this highway improvement. We believe this infrastructure funding to improve Highway 73 South of Cromwell will not only dramatically improve the safety for residents and visitors, but will also have a direct correlation on Cromwell's ability to prosper.

Please consider this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (218)390-9925.

Sincerely,



Sharon Zelazny  
Mayor



Independent School District No. 95  
Cromwell-Wright Public School

January 24, 2022

Dear Honorable Congressman Peter Stauber:

My name is Nathan Libbon, and I am the Superintendent/Principal at Cromwell-Wright School, I.S.D 95, and have also been a resident of the Cromwell-Wright School District for the past fourteen years.

I am writing to ask for your support to secure funding from the Infrastructure bill to make much needed safety improvements to Highway 73. The area of Highway 73 that is of the greatest concern is the eight-mile stretch south of Cromwell. It has dangerous curves and corners, poor visibility at approaches, no shoulder, and a poor sub roadbed. Adding to the dangers is the high amount of heavy truck traffic. This stretch of road is used on a daily basis during the school year by staff members, students, community members. Our school buses load and unload students and travel to and from various activities on this dangerous stretch of highway.

I hope you will support funding to improve Highway 73 and help ensure the safety of our students and community members.

Sincerely,

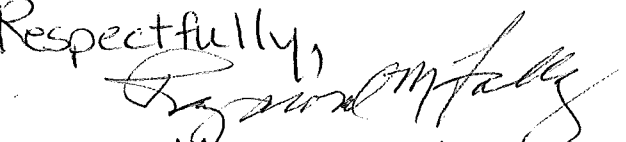
Nathan R. Libbon, Superintendent/Principal

January 18, 2022

Congressman Stauber,

Highway 73, 8 miles south of Cromwell has been a problem for over 70 years. I was Mayor of Cromwell in 1980-1990 and tried to get something done with that stretch of road but with no avail. Now 40 years later, we still haven't moved forward. Over these 40 years, accidents and deaths have happened. There are no shoulders to rely on so that a car can safely pull over in case of an emergency. If anyone rides a bike or even walks on that 8 mile stretch, you're taking your life in your hands. Everyone in our <sup>surrounding</sup> area can vouch for straightening the curves and widening the road. This has been a sore spot for motorists all over the country, visitors and residents alike. So can't we get some funding to rebuild the highway before more deaths and accidents arise in the future. Fifty plus years of useless overlays certainly does not solve the problem. This has gone on long enough. It's time to move forward and get something done.

Respectfully,



Former Mayor and current Councilman



## EAGLE TOWNSHIP

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5687 Strand Road, Cromwell, MN 55726

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Congressman Pete Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900  
Hermantown MN 55811

RE: Highway 73 – 8 miles South of Cromwell

Dear Congressman Stauber:

The Eagle Township Board of Supervisors directed me to write you regarding the continuing poor condition of the 8 mile stretch of Highway 73 south of Cromwell.

This highway section has been under discussion for many decades. At the Carlton County Association of Township Officers meeting this past fall, Senator Jason Rarick stated there was new infrastructure money coming from the Federal Government. Dan Reed from Automba Township stated that Highway 73 was promised to be reconstructed right after World War II ended! You can imagine the sentiment that exists among Eagle Township members (and voters) who have been by-passed on important and needed projects time and time again! Patience is a virtue, but now with funding dispersal being decided, we are again raising strong voices to get this project on the books!

Highway 73 runs right down the middle of Eagle Township. Our supervisors just reviewed the Road Order dated 1897. It is a very busy highway, with continual semi-trucks, logging trucks, transport trucks, heavy weekend boat, RV, and hunting traffic, as well as school bus and mail carrier traffic. It serves both Island Lake and Eagle Lake traffic.

As you are probably aware, Highway 73 south of Cromwell includes two very dangerous curves (1/2 mile south of Cromwell and again at County Road 4 and Herranen Road intersections) which have caused mortalities in the past. There are no shoulders. People have died going off the road and in the ditch. There are no by-pass turn lanes. Sight distance is compromised at Island Lake, Kingsley Road, Strand Road, County Road 4 and 4 Corners Road intersections.

Now is the time to take action to rebuild this road to meet current safety and design specifications.

We look forward to hearing that this project has finally been approved and scheduled for completion.

Thank you,

Debra Switzer, Clerk  
Eagle Township  
[debswitzer@hotmail.com](mailto:debswitzer@hotmail.com)  
218-340-1968

CC: Loran Shelton, Chairperson, Eagle Township Board of Supervisors,  
[loransshelton@hotmail.com](mailto:loransshelton@hotmail.com)

Ken Koivisto, Road Supervisor, Eagle Township Board of Supervisors,  
[eagleroadsupervisor@outlook.com](mailto:eagleroadsupervisor@outlook.com)

Rob Switzer, Vice-Chairperson, Eagle Township Board of Supervisors,  
[robswitzer@msn.com](mailto:robswitzer@msn.com)

Ann Markusen and Rod Walli  
1161 Villa Vista Circle  
Wright MN 55798

Honorable Congressman Peter Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900 Hermantown, MN 55811

Dear Congressman Stauber,

I'm a voter and constituent living in Red Clover Township, just north of Cromwell, Minnesota. I am a retired economist and a regular columnist in the Cloquet Pine Knot, the Voyageur of McGregor and the Floodwood Forum of Floodwood. My husband, Rod Walli, is a retired math and psychology teacher at Cromwell-Wright School.

We are writing in support of the proposed Highway 73 project that will eliminate the two dangerously-curved corners within a quarter mile of each other, not far south of the City of Cromwell, requiring sudden slowdowns. It is difficult to see around these corners as one approaches. Both have been the sites of multiple accidents over the years. This stretch lacks shoulders, exacerbating the potential for careening off the road. It is a route heavily used by large trucks. Studies have confirmed that the highway rests on poor sub-roadbed.

We are so pleased that the federal infrastructure bill has passed Congress. We hope that the funds available will be devoted to small projects like these, including many bridges that need shoring up across the US and including in our area of Minnesota.

Please support this overdue local project, which means so much to our community's safe driving.

Regards,

Ann Markusen [markusen@umn.edu](mailto:markusen@umn.edu)  
Rodney Walli [rgwalli@gmail.com](mailto:rgwalli@gmail.com)

January 21, 2022

The Honorable Congressman Peter Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway, Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

Dear Congressman Stauber,

My name is Brenda Nyberg, and I am a life-long resident of Cromwell, Minnesota, a small city at the intersection of State Highways 210 and 73, within your district. I drive a treacherous stretch of Highway 73 south of Cromwell every day on my way to and from work, to get my three boys to and from Cromwell-Wright School, and for almost every errand I run, event I attend, or person I visit. In all, I have been traveling this dangerous road for 47 years. I am writing to plead that the Highway 73 road reconstruction project FINALLY gets the funding it is due via the newly-passed Infrastructure Bill.

In my 47 years, I myself have been involved in two accidents on the stretch of highway between Cromwell and Kettle River to the south. One as an infant and another when I was in my 20's. My father was nearly killed on this highway. I have witnessed more accidents and near-accidents than I can even count. The road is narrow, winding in places, has no shoulder, deep ditches, blind intersections, and is a main artery of many, many large trucks that increase the dangers already naturally present. Never in a million years would I allow my children to ride bike or take a walk on this highway however we have no choice but to drive it. If you want to experience this Russian Roulette game we've been playing, take a drive on East or West Four Corners Road (Carlton County Road 123) and try to pull out onto Highway 73 heading south. You won't even be able to see the car coming from the north until it's kissing your bumper.

This section of highway was slated for reconstruction to fix these dangers years ago! Unfortunately, that funding was funneled elsewhere in Northeastern Minnesota and the folks that travel this gauntlet have been left to dodge bullets year after year. With the funding being made available to states in the recently passed Infrastructure Bill, it is imperative that this essential project that was cast to the wayside years ago (and every year since), be funded as it was supposed to be. It is disgusting that the money earmarked for this project was siphoned away and was never replaced. This is our chance to finally have our highway fixed; for our residents, our school bus drivers, our commuters, our visitors, and even our poor mail carrier who puts his life on the line every day!

I implore you to encourage that a portion of the Infrastructure Bill funding be designated for the Highway 73 road construction project so it can be completed once and for all. We have been waiting years, decades even. This is the opportunity we have to seize.

Sincerely,



Brenda Nyberg  
2120 Nyberg Road  
Cromwell, MN 55726  
218-390-4570  
[Bknyberg2120@gmail.com](mailto:Bknyberg2120@gmail.com)

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Congressman Pete Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900  
Hermantown MN 55811

RE: Highway 73 South of Cromwell

Dear Congressman Stauber:

As a resident living on Highway 73 South of Cromwell, I am writing this letter to urge you to put the reconstruction of Highway 73 on the front burner. I understand there is federal funding available, and decisions are being made about how to spend it. I am also aware there is a strong grass-roots effort to make our Cromwell area voices heard.

I grew up on Highway 73 just north of Cromwell, where the Villa Vista Nursing Home is now located. I attended college in Duluth at UMD and St. Scholastica. I lived in Wright for 28 years, and I now reside two miles south on Strand Road. For the past four years, in our retirement, my husband and I have witnessed and experienced the danger of turning onto our road off Highway 73. Because of the way the road is constructed, sight distance is non-existent until you reach the east turn-off to Strand Road. That danger occurs each time I drive home. That is just one thing.

The rest of my concerns stem from observing and being aware of accidents, concerns and stories told by countless residents and family members in the Cromwell area. My husband and I sit on our front porch and watch the traffic on Highway 73. There is a continual stream of trucks, cars, pickups with trailers or RVs, or boats. We have seen vehicles hit the ditch, both in summer and winter. They go too fast, the road is not designed well, and voila!—they are in the ditch! We just saw a car full of young parents and four kids in the ditch during the last severe snow storm. We stopped to see if they had called for help; the driver said, “I was run right off the road by the semi-truck.” This was on the corner by Kingsley Road....very easy to not see where to go, and just drive right into the ditch.

My brother went off the corner in a vehicle turnover on Highway 73 next to W. Island Lake Road back in high school. I remember my mother being upset because he didn't look like himself in his senior picture. He had suffered damage to his facial bones in that accident. Lucky to be alive! That same corner still exists in the same shape as back in the mid-1950's.

Highway 73 has virtually no shoulders. I've talked to people who won't drive this road because of this fact. It is too dangerous. Certainly, with the year being 2022, we shouldn't be talking any longer about a State of Minnesota highway using this language.

My brother-in-law Bill Switzer and wife Denise live on the corner next to the County Road 4 intersection. This is a most dangerous corner. Whenever we go there, which sometimes includes pulling a pick-up and trailer, we have to use EXTREME CAUTION to pull out onto Highway 73, or even to turn off the highway into his driveway. His corner land was bought by MN DOT decades ago – their house was demolished – they built a new house farther back - and they were paid for the land so that corner could be straightened out. And nothing has happened since!

Highway 73 has no by-pass lanes. It is extremely dangerous to turn onto Lippo Lane, Heather Lane, W. Island Lake Road, Eagle Lake Road, 4 Corners Road east or west, Strand Road, Kingsley Road, Debele Road, County Rd 4, Herranen Road, Mononen Road, Tammi Road, Hill Road, or Stenberg Road. Eagle Township has the highest population of townships in our area, and many of these roads have multiple residences. This necessitates the school bus or mail carrier to have to turn onto these side roads.

As you can see, this is a big concern. We don't want you to think we are just sending form letters, or taking this in stride, thinking our letters won't do any good. We want you to come out and see for yourself. We invite you to stop at our home at 5687 Strand Road, Cromwell, MN 55726.

Was it your mother Jean who worked as the Medical Records Administrator at Mercy Hospital in Moose Lake for quite a few years? I followed her footsteps and worked the same job as a CSS Medical Record Administration grad. Jean was a pro – and you can be proud of her achievements.

In closing, please take our concerns seriously. We would love to hear from you and have you stop over. Come for a cup of coffee and sit and watch the traffic. Check out the road as I've described. You can call 218-340-1968 or just stop in.

Sincerely,

Debra Switzer  
5687 Strand Road  
Cromwell MN 55726  
218-340-1968  
debswitzer@hotmail.com

Congressman Peter Stauber,  
To Whom it may concern:

We need your help to improve  
Highway 73. This eight mile stretch  
of Road not only has dangerous  
corners, poor visibility, no shoulders  
poor sub-road bed & heavy truck  
traffic. Several deaths over the  
past many years!

Recently the Infrastructure Bill was  
passed and as a citizen of Cromwell  
and Carlton County. I am asking for  
\$\$ from this Bill to be secured  
for Hwy 73.

Sincerely,

Patti McPhail  
Cromwell, Mn.

January 15, 2022

The Honorable Congressman Peter Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

Dear Mr. Stauber,

We are writing today to comment on the stretch of highway 73 South of Cromwell that is in desperate need of improvements.

My husband Keith grew up on this highway. In 1977 we married and made our home there. There are 5 Switzer brothers who live along or directly off of highway 73 on Strand Rd, Eagle Lake Rd, us on Mononen Rd and 2 directly on Hwy 73. We also have a son who lives on the next 40 with 5 girls who use this road daily. We have traveled this stretch of road to school, work and farming. Over the past 25 years we have also had 3 rental properties along this stretch. Highway 73 is the road of our lives.

We have always had to load our bikes to find a shoulder to ride on. We have always known to avoid the road on the weekends as it is heavily used by people heading north from the Minneapolis area to weekend places. We know that the lack of shoulders and treacherous curves makes it nearly impossible to farm in the area. We have a law enforcement friend who has mentioned that it is seldom patrolled as there is no safe place to pull someone over.

Back in the 70's when we were in high school there was a push to make these improvements, but for some reason it stalled. Senator Norman Hanson lived on this stretch of highway and his son now has the family farm. For 50 years we have waited. The hills and driveway approaches are dangerous in many spots with limited visibility.

We believe that with your help this project can finally happen. We encourage you to drive this stretch and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Patti & Keith Switzer  
5676 Mononen Rd  
Cromwell, MN 55726

Switzerfarm2@gmail.com



"We Need Your Help to Improve Highway 73"

Gwendolyn H. Koecher  
3548 Old Highway 61  
Barnum, MN 55707  
218-460-8838

January 10, 2022

The Honorable Congressman Peter Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900,  
Hermantown, MN 55811

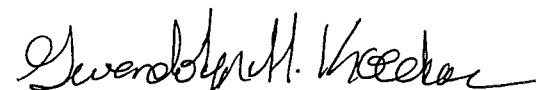
Dear Congressman-

I am the City Clerk of Cromwell and I currently travel Highway 73 Monday – Thursday, fifty weeks a year. Six and one half miles of my work commute is on Highway 73, traveling from Barnum, MN to Cromwell, MN. The one half mile corners from Kingsley Road to West Island Lake Road are some of the most dangerous parts of my drive as the speed is set higher than it should be (40 mph), the ditches are steep and with having open fields on both sides it acts as a wind tunnel in this area. Creating black ice covered roads (nine months out of the year) with the potential of extremely low visibility along without a safety of a road shoulder. I encourage you to take a drive through the curves on 73 to fully understand the hazards.

I support improving Highway 73, I know it will be a temporary disruption for a season or two however the improved impact it will have for our citizens and travels would be greatly beneficial to us all.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Gwendolyn H. Koecher

Congressman Peter Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

Congressman Peter Stauber:

As a local homeowner in Cromwell, MN, and someone who regularly drives between Cromwell and Moose Lake on Hwy 73, it is vital to me and my friends and family that Hwy 73 south of Cromwell MN is updated to ensure that it is safer for drivers.

In July of 2021, my mother was in a car accident on the S curves by County Road 4, as an oncoming car crossed lanes on the S curve. Thankfully she recovered from the accident with minor injuries, but the next person may not be so lucky.

Please help secure funding to update the eight mile stretch of Hwy 73 south of Cromwell, MN.

Thank you,  
Naomi Johnson

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Congressman Peter Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway  
Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

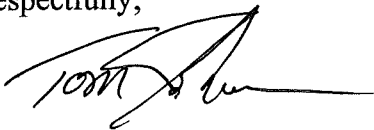
Dear Congressman Stauber,

As a member of the Cromwell-Wright Fire and Ambulance staff for seventeen years, I have seen many accidents on Highway 73. Some were fatal and some just fender dents. Most of the bad accidents occur on the curves and some because of no shoulder and deep ditches.

I have worked for the City of Cromwell since 2005. The former mayor said that he had been trying to fix Highway 73 for many years. I would attend meetings with him and Dan Reed of Kettle River, who had also been working a long time to fix Highway 73. The former mayor and I would go to MnDot meetings in Duluth and they would call us the Highway 73 men, not knowing our names, just our faces.

I hope you can work hard to find the money to repair Highway 73 before someone else get killed on that dangerous road.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Johnson  
5272 Krogh Rd  
Cromwell, MN 55726

## Sharon Zelazny

---

**From:** Carl Switzer <carl8switzer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 7:14 PM  
**To:** mayorofcromwell@frontier.com  
**Subject:** Highway 73

Dear MR Stauber and to else this may concern

Hello my name is Carl Switzer. I'm father to 5 girls and a husband to my wonderful wife. I'm a life long resident of the area and have lived in a ten mile radius of my home for 41 years. I have made my profession as a union Plumber with my wife being a kindergarten teacher. This letter is concerning Highway 73 rebuild. I personally have had numerous encounters with cars crashing in the ditch. Family's driving at 9pm at night not knowing when they will get out of the ditch. " I didn't see the sharp corners" or " there is no shoulders on this road". People trying to exercise with their bikes getting run off the road by a Walmart semi. Blind hills when you pull out of your driveway hoping no one is coming. There is many scary things about the road that locals have gotten use to. Locals aren't the only ones traveling this road. We just want it safe. I want my kids to be able to drive safe on these roads.

Sincerely  
Carl Switzer=

*Patricia L Hanauer  
1016 Honeysuckle Lane  
Farmington, Minnesota 55024*

January 29, 2022

Representative Peter Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Highway, Suite 900  
Hermantown, Minnesota 55811

Dear Representative Stauber:

I am a retired educator who used to live in Hibbing. Although my home is now in Farmington, I visit friends and relatives on the Range frequently and they visit me.

Each time one of us makes the trip, we ask, "How was the drive?" and invariably "the curves" on Highway 73 are discussed as being dangerous.

Your attention to this highway issue is important as a solution will make that drive much safer and our conversations can be about what a smart thing it was to improve the visibility and reduce the sharp turns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia L Hanauer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Patricia L Hanauer

January 17, 2022

Congressman Stauber,

I am a concerned senior citizen, living in Cromwell, asking for your support and help in repairing and improving an 8 mile stretch of Highway 13, ~~south~~ of Cromwell. I have lived here all my life.

This highway was in the process of being fixed in the late 1960's when I was in college but unfortunately before it was to be straightened out and repaired, a University of Minnesota, (Minneapolis) student from Cromwell was the one person who was totally responsible for not getting our highway fixed. This student started a petition stating that prevented the 8 mile highway to be worked on - mainly because he lived on the land that needed to be bought to improve the highway. The very tragic part of this petition that <sup>it</sup> was signed by hundreds of University of Minnesota, Mpls campus was that none of those signatures lived in this area, except one, but that petition, signed by students from the main University shut down the project. - A petition that should never have been

acknowledged as the students were from  
Minneapolis <sup>and not Cromwell</sup> and <sup>they</sup> had no idea about  
the problems 8 miles south of Cromwell  
on Highway 73. That was the travesty that  
decided the fate of <sup>the</sup> Highway 73 project.  
And 50+ years later we are still working  
on trying to straighten out the curves  
and make shoulders wider for a safer  
highway.

So is it ~~possible~~ that there might be  
hope to secure some funding from  
the Infrastructure bill?

Thank you for your time and  
consideration.

Lindsay Lally  
Retired Elementary Teacher

January 21, 2022

Congressman Pete Stauber  
5094 Miller Trunk Road  
Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

Dear Congressman Stuber,

I have lived in Floodwood and then Cromwell for my entire life. Highway 73, south of Cromwell has always been a part of my life. Being the main highway artery taking us to Highway 35, I have traveled it countless times.

This stretch of highway is very dangerous and I can speak to that from experience. My Godmother was killed on the second set of curves south of Cromwell many years ago. Those curves were dangerous then, and this many years later, they are still dangerous. I know we are a rural area, but don't the people of this area, as well as the many visitors that travel that highway, deserve a safe road to travel? The curves are dangerous, there are no shoulders, deep ditches, and poor visibility. There are countless stories from people in Cromwell about the close calls, people they know that have died on that highway and the problems the no shoulders have caused. Some of these stories date back many years and stories continue right up to the present.

Please, please consider supporting this important overdue project. I believe lives will be saved as a result.

Respectfully,



William Zelazny  
1270 South Point Rd  
Cromwell, MN 55726





# Carlton County Auditor/Treasurer

**Kevin DeVriendt**  
*Auditor/Treasurer*

**Kelly Lampel**  
*Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer*

**Auditor**  
P.O. Box 130  
Carlton, MN 55718  
Phone 218-384-9127

**Treasurer**  
P.O. Box 160  
Carlton, MN 55718  
Phone 218-384-9125

## \*\*\* RESOLUTION NO. 22-010\*\*\*

BY COMMISSIONER: Peterson

ADOPTED: January 24, 2022

WHEREAS, State Highway 73 is a main corridor for business commerce between the Twin Cities Metro Area and the Iron Range and points west; and

WHEREAS, the condition of State Highway 73, particularly the portion eight miles South of Cromwell, has been and continues to be in a deplorable condition; and

WHEREAS, the needed funding for said reconstruction project has not been forthcoming, or diverted to other projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carlton County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare their support of the State Legislature and/or Federal Legislature in seeking State or Federal Funds for the completion of the Highway 73 Reconstruction Project (particularly from Cromwell continuing eight miles south).

\*\*\*\*\*  
Upon motion by Peterson, seconded by Bodie, and carried, the above resolution was adopted.

Yea votes: Brenner, Bodie, Peterson, Proulx, and Thell

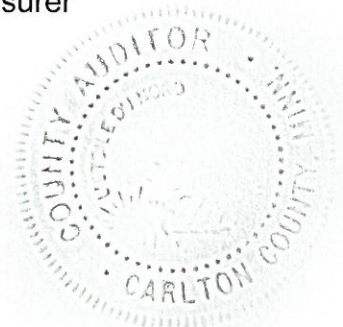
Nay votes: None

Absent: None

I, Kevin DeVriendt, Auditor/Treasurer of the County of Carlton, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 24th day of January, 2022 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE in Carlton, Minnesota, this 24th day of January, 2022.

Kevin DeVriendt  
Carlton County Auditor/Treasurer



To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Cromwell all my life. I drive on highway 73 very often. The area prioritized are the dangerous curves. Also poor visibility at approaches to the highway corridor, no shoulders, poor sub roadbed and heavy truck traffic. My brother-in-law was killed on one of these corners by a truck, motorcycle accident. We hope we will be able to secure some funding from the recently passed Infrastructure bill.

Respectfully,  
Barbara Datt,  
Carlton County Soil & Water  
Vice Chair

January 24, 2022

Congressman Pete Stauber  
Minnesota 8<sup>th</sup> District  
5094 Miller Trunk Hwy  
Suite 900  
Hermantown, MN 55811

Dear Congressman Stauber,

This is a letter encouraging your support for funding the rebuilding of 8 miles of Hwy 73 south of Cromwell. Barnum Public Schools joins the Hwy 73 Action Committee, consisting of government officials and community leaders in the western half of Carlton County, in their plea for funding for this project. Having funds allocated to the project in the past only to be re-allocated to other projects has been disappointing, to say the least. It is time for this section of road to be the priority.

Our District school buses are on this stretch of road Monday through Friday during the school year picking up and dropping off students. This road lacks shoulders and is long past the point where band-aid fixes work. This road is a hazard to our buses and a safety concern for our students and drivers.

Your action to ensure funding for this project on our behalf is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mike McNulty  
Superintendent