



April 18, 2022

Senator Jerry Newton
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2403
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Regional Support for Highway 65 Reconstruction Projects

Dear Senator Newton,

The North Metro Mayors Association (NMMA) supports funding for intersection reconstruction on Trunk Highway 65 in Blaine.

NMMA member cities recognize the regional significance of Highway 65 for the efficient movement of people and commerce in and out of the region. Approving funding for the reconstruction of the intersections at 99th Avenue, 109th Avenue, and 117th Avenue are part of a vision for improving the efficiency and safety of Highway 65 as a regional corridor.

Congestion and safety issues on Highway 65 are a north metro region concern as well as a statewide concern. Two of the most-visited sports facilities in the state, the National Sports Center and Fogerty Arena, draw millions of visitors each year to Blaine. Those community assets, each with international draw, rely on Highway 65. Providing funding for reconstruction of intersections on Highway 65 is crucial for safety and efficiency of the region and state.

Representing cities with a combined population of more than 450,000 Minnesota residents, NMMA is a collaboration of 15 north metro cities plus community partners working together to encourage private and public investments in the northern suburbs. NMMA member cities include Andover, Anoka, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Dayton, Fridley, Maple Grove, Mounds View, New Brighton, New Hope, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jerry Koch
City of Coon Rapids
NMMA President

Mayor Ryan Karasek
City of Champlin
NMMA Vice-President

Mayor Kathi Hemken
City of New Hope
Former President