

CITY OF VICTORIA

Victoria, MN  Est. 1915

March 4, 2024

To: Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

RE: SF 2332 and SF 2333

Dear Senator:

This letter is intended to express the City of Victoria's support for Senate File 2333, which seeks funding for a corridor study of Highway 7 from Minnetonka to St. Bonifacius. Additionally, we endorse Senate File 2332, which requests supplementary funding to support a corridor coalition comprising cities and stakeholders along this vital section of Highway 7.

Highway 7 serves as a vital lifeline, connecting communities, businesses, and residents throughout the region, acting as a bridge from rural Minnesota to its metropolitan neighbors. As our area and the surrounding regions experience rapid growth, the importance of Highway 7 as a primary route for Victoria residents has only increased. This corridor is essential for accessing essential services, employment opportunities, and recreational activities, making it a critical component of our community's infrastructure. Further, the recent findings of the *2022 Highway 7 Road Safety Audit* conducted by MNDOT have sounded the alarm to the increasing traffic incidents and general roadway conditions, signaling the urgent need for a comprehensive evaluation along this critical corridor.

As such, we fully endorse the City of Shorewood's request for funding to conduct a comprehensive study of Highway 7, focusing on safety, access, and transportation improvements. The proposed corridor study aligns with our shared commitment to enhancing the functionality and reliability of vital transportation routes in our region.

Moreover, we recognize the importance of collaboration among cities and stakeholders along Highway 7 to ensure that the proposed improvements meet the diverse needs of our communities. By supporting Shorewood's request for additional funding to establish a corridor coalition, we affirm our dedication to fostering partnerships that enhance transportation infrastructure and promote regional connectivity.

Again, the City of Victoria supports SF 2332 and SF 2333. Thank you for your consideration of this important study and coalition.

Sincerely,



Debra McMillan, Mayor
City of Victoria