



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: 9-22-20

Title of Item: Resolution of Support for MHFP Grant Application - US Hwy 169

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>

Submitted by: John Welle	Department: Highway Department
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Presenter (Name and Title): John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer	Estimated Time Needed: 10 minutes
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Summary of Issue:
MnDOT is planning for resurfacing work on the 24-mile segment of US Hwy 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to TH 200 in Hill City in 2024 and 2025. Despite our efforts to have the scope of this project increased to widen the deficient narrow shoulders, funding parameters have determined that only resurfacing work will be done under this project.

The Minnesota Highway Freight Program (MHFP) provides federal funding for projects on public roads that provide measurable freight transportation benefits. Since US Hwy 169 is an important freight corridor for northern Minnesota, and given that this segment of highway has one of the highest fatal crash rates in the entire state, MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 have agreed to submit an application for MHFP funding to widen shoulders on the 24-mile segment of US Hwy 169 from the Mississippi River Bridge to TH 200 in Hill City. As part of the application packet, they have requested a resolution of support from Aitkin County.

Note that my office is also working to obtain the same resolution of support from Itasca County and the cities of Aitkin, Palisade, Hill City, and Grand Rapids.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Adopt attached resolution of support.

Financial Impact:
 Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No
 What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$
 Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*

Resolution of Support for MHFP Grant Application - US Hwy 169

WHEREAS, US Highway 169 in Aitkin County is part of the National Highway System (NHS) and is an important regional, statewide and national freight corridor serving the agricultural, forestry, mining, manufacturing, retail, and tourism industries, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 does not meet geometric safety standards primarily due to a lack of wide shoulders that are generally present on all other major NHS routes in Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the lack of wide paved shoulders on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 represents a severe freight safety gap in the US Highway 169 corridor, as the entire remainder of this NHS corridor has wide paved shoulders in place, or is programmed to receive such improvements, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200, based on available crash and traffic data, has a fatal crash rate of over 2.1 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled over the past ten years, which is one of the highest rates of any NHS highway segment in the northern half of Minnesota and 2.7 times the median crash rate for NHS routes in the northern half of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 was identified in the 2019 District 1 Freight Plan as one of only four segments in District 1 with an overlap between stakeholder-identified safety needs and data-identified safety needs, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 was identified in the 1998 Trunk Highway 169/210 Corridor Study prepared by MnDOT District 3 as needing wider shoulders to address freight movement and safety concerns, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 is currently programmed for resurfacing improvements beginning in 2024 and continuing into 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Highway Freight Program (MHFP) exists to provide funding to construction projects on public roads that provide measureable freight transportation benefits, and

WHEREAS, an application for the MHFP program is being submitted by MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 to construct wide paved shoulders as part of the resurfacing projects currently programmed on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 beginning in 2024 and continuing into 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the MHFP application being submitted for shoulder widening improvements on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that the MHFP application is not successful, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners strongly requests that MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 continue to work to find other revenue sources to provide the long overdue shoulder widening improvements on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 as part of the 2024 and 2025 resurfacing projects.

Commissioner xxxx moved for adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting

STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 22nd day of September, 2020 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 22nd day of September, 2020

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator