



## Resolution in Support of Funding for US Highway 212: A Corridor of Commerce

**WHEREAS** US Highway 212 serves a critical role in connecting Greater Minnesota to Twin Cities markets in the Metropolitan Area and has been designated an Interregional Corridor while also being placed on the National Highway System;

**WHEREAS** US Highway 212 is heavily used by freight traffic with 1,850 heavy trucks in the corridor daily and freight traffic in Southwest Minnesota will potentially grow by 200 percent by 2030, increasing truck traffic on Highway 212 dramatically;

**WHEREAS** The Corridors of Commerce program was created to accelerate improvements to corridors that are not being addressed through the regular program, including projects that span multiple MnDOT districts, and the legislature specifically identified US Highway 212 as a Corridor of Commerce in legislation passed in 2017;

**WHEREAS** Traffic volumes in year 2030 are forecast to increase to between 21,000 and 28,000 vehicles per day or two to three times the existing traffic volumes, exceeding the capacity of the existing two-lane facility;

**WHEREAS** An Environmental Assessment has been approved for the 4.6 mile 2-lane gap between Cologne and Carver and the project is ready for construction upon securing right-of-way and final design;

**WHEREAS** forty-one communities and local chambers of commerce have passed resolutions supporting improvements to Highway 212 to expand the capacity of this highway and the Board of Commissioners of every county along the corridor has passed such a resolution;

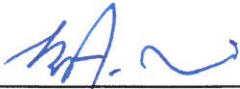
**WHEREAS** the current highway poses serious safety problems as it switches from a four-lane facility west of Chaska to a two-lane highway, then switches back to a four-lane highway around Cologne and back to a two-lane highway from Cologne to Norwood Young America and would be much safer and much better able to handle present and projected traffic flows if it were a continuous four-lane highway through this area;

**WHEREAS** Congress and the State of Minnesota have recognized the need to expand this critical trade link to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and have previously provided funding through the ISTEA Transportation Authorization bill, TEA-21 Authorization bill, the 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill, the 2003 Transportation Appropriations bill, the 2004 Transportation Appropriations bill and SAFETEA-LU;

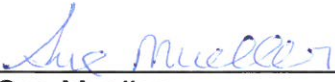
**WHEREAS** Multi-modal connections to or near Highway 212 include: freight rail lines, intermodal terminals, park-and-ride lots, transit service, state trails and airports.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The City of Cologne strongly supports the inclusion of funding from the Corridors of Commerce program to support the \$110 million of needed improvements that will complete the highway to a continuous four-lane highway to Norwood Young America and that any maps or lists of Corridors of Commerce highways include US Highway 212.

Adopted by the City council of the City of Cologne, Minnesota, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Lein, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Mueller  
City Clerk

M/ Szarolletta

Lein Aye

Meyer Aye

S/ Evenski

Szarolletta Aye

Bruss Aye

Evenski Aye