

TOM EMMER  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2306**

315 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2331

DISTRICT OFFICE  
9201 QUADAY AVENUE NE  
SUITE 206  
OTSEGO, MN 55330  
(763) 241-6848

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June 10, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Letter of Support for the I-65 INFRA grant submitted by Anoka County**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to express my full support for the Minnesota State Highway 65 INFRA grant application submitted by Anoka County. This project is a critical infrastructure project in Minnesota that is supported by local communities, its citizens, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT).


This project is important to Minnesota as it serves as a critical corridor of commerce, not just for Anoka County, but all the Counties along the MN 65 corridor. Currently, this stretch of road has real safety issues. In fact, just this past weekend there was another crash, which caused one fatality. Crashes and fatalities on this stretch of highway are eight times higher than the state average. The INFRA grant submitted by Anoka County will go a long way to alleviate the current congestion and create a safer highway, which serves as a critical economic driver to the state. Congestion in this region is expected to nearly double during peak travel times from 24-minutes to 40-minutes.

The National Sports Complex around this area hosts 4.2 million visitors each year, generating \$83 million for the state. This is just one example of the importance of this project and what it means to the state of Minnesota.

This grant also strives to serve as a social justice measure. The completion of this project means improved economic opportunities for ethnically underserved communities. Currently, Highway 65 is very difficult to travel or cross for people walking or riding bikes, which is often a barrier to economic prosperity for so many living in and around the area.

This project will allow endless growth to our region and state. I respectfully request that you give this grant application your full consideration. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance as you make your determination.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress