



April 18, 2017

Governor Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Scott Newman, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3105
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Paul Torkelson, Chair
House Transportation Committee
381 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Dayton, Senator Newman and Representative Torkelson,

Please find attached letters from business associations across U.S. Highway 14 from New Ulm to Rochester expressing their request that 2017 be the year the State of Minnesota funds a path to completing Highway 14 from Rochester to New Ulm.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the 12.5 miles between Owatonna and Dodge Center is reaching its ten year anniversary. MnDOT is scheduling a resurfacing of the 12 miles between Nicollet and New Ulm, pushing the completion of that section out at least 10 years or more. The need to complete the expansion of U.S Highway 14 is urgent, and we look to you to find a way to finish this longstanding project. The economic future of Southern Minnesota depends upon it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Foreman'.

Karen Foreman, President
U.S. Highway 14 Partnership

Cc: MnDOT Commissioner Zelle, Sen. Scott Dibble, Rep. Frank Hornstein, Tenzin Dolkar



1961 Premier Drive | Suite 100 | Mankato, MN 56001
PH 507.385.6640 | PH 800.697.0652 | FX 507.345.4451
greatermankato.com

April 13, 2017

Dear Governor Dayton and Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

In a time of budget surplus, low unemployment, and sustained economic growth, we the undersigned business and community leaders from Greater Mankato implore the State of Minnesota to invest some of its current good fortune in the future economic growth of Southern Minnesota. Specifically, we call upon the Legislature and the Governor to sign a transportation funding bill that provides a path to complete Highway 14. Let's use our current prosperity to ensure continued growth and investment.

Nearly 400,000 people live along Highway 14 between Rochester and New Ulm. This is the most populous 100-mile stretch in Greater Minnesota not served by a continuous four-lane highway. The regional centers of New Ulm, Greater Mankato, Waseca, Owatonna and Rochester add economic diversity to our state and are poised for significant growth. Unfortunately, the lack of a four-lane highway connecting our communities leaves Southern Minnesota without the basic infrastructure it needs to realize its full potential.

For those nearly 400,000 people, Highway 14 serves as a critical corridor of commerce that residents and businesses of southern Minnesota rely on to get to medical appointments at the Mayo Clinic, take their kids to sports tournaments, commute to their job and get their products to market. The road's remaining two-lane segments not only make the current situation dangerous, but inhibit economic growth and investment.

For our region to continue to grow and become an even bigger contributor to the state's economy, we need the support of our state leaders to make the necessary investments that will finally complete Highway 14, thus providing a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure that supports this region's businesses and commuters.

Business and community leaders in Southern Minnesota have now waited for the expansion of Highway 14 for nearly 45 years—through the administrations of nine US Presidents and eight Minnesota Governors. With its large surplus and healthy economy, if ever the state was in a position to complete this important project, that day is today. With this in mind, we the undersigned business and community leaders leave you with a simple message: fix it now.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jonathan G. Zierdt, President & CEO, Greater Mankato Growth

Greater Mankato Growth Board of Directors:

Ron Vetter, Vetter Stone (Chair)

Todd Loosbrock, U.S. Bank

Chad Surprenant, ISG

Julia Ketcham Corbett, Blethen, Gage & Krause

Marvin Rhodes, KEYC News 12 & Fox 12 Mankato

Jay Weir, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Najwa Massad, Massad Group
JO Guck Bailey, Radio Mankato
Dr. Sheri Allen, Mankato Area Public Schools
Dr. Mark Dehen, City of North Mankato
Dr. Richard Davenport, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mike Drummer, Drummer Companies
Joe Duncan, Bolton & Menk
Brian Fowler, Quality I HR Foto / Sports Pix
Pat Hentges, City of Mankato
Pam Jagdfeld, Nifty Home Products
Dr. James Hebl, Mayo Clinic Health System
Dr. Annette Parker, South Central College
Tami Paulsen, City Center Partnership
Jennifer Spaude, Consolidated Communications

Greater Mankato Growth Public Affairs Steering Committee

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Chad Surprenant, ISG (Vice Chair)
Tami Paulsen, City Center Partnership
John Harrenstein, City of North Mankato
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Joe Meidl, The Music Mart
Ryan Spaude, Eide Bailly
Dave Sunderman, BENCO
Geoff Roise, Lindsay Windows
Andy Willaert, Gislason & Hunter
David Wittenberg, Stifel
Dr. Sheri Allen, Mankato Area Public Schools
Dr. Richard Davenport, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Andy Wilke, River Hills Mall
Randy Farrow, Mankato Clinic
David Richards, Jones Metal
Mark Carlson, Walmart Distribution Center
Brian Benshoof, MRCI
Tyson Twait, Ridley USA Inc.



JOURNEY TO GROWTH PARTNERSHIP

220 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE 100 • ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA 55904
(507) 288-0208 • WWW.RAEDI.COM

April 13, 2017

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NATALIE SIDERIUS

GARY SMITH

To Whom it May Concern:

It is the objective of Journey to Growth to pursue priority transportation infrastructure needs in the SE MN region and to advocate for increases in long term, sustainable, dedicated transportation funding to support diversification of the SE MN regional economy. Journey to Growth endorses the legislative priorities of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership; a partnership of cities, counties, townships, chambers of commerce, businesses and individuals to secure funding for the completion of U.S. Highway 14 between New Ulm and Rochester.

The Journey to Growth Board of Directors vote to endorse the attached U.S. Highway 14 Partnership letter to the Minnesota State Legislature was unanimously passed via electronic vote on April 13th, 2017

Respectfully,

John Wade, Chair
Journey to Growth

REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

10 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 3RD FLOOR • P.O. BOX 3367 • MANKATO, MN • 56002-3367 • 507-387-5643 • 1-800-450-5643 • www.rndc.org

April 6, 2017

Governor Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Mark Dayton,

In a time of budget surplus, low unemployment, and sustained economic growth, we the undersigned implore the State of Minnesota to invest some of its current good fortune in the future economic growth of Southern Minnesota. Specifically, we call upon the Legislature and the Governor to sign a transportation funding bill that provides a path to complete Highway 14. Let's use our current prosperity to ensure continued growth and investment.

Nearly 400,000 people live along Highway 14 between Rochester and New Ulm. This is the most populous 100-mile stretch in Greater Minnesota not served by a continuous four-lane highway. The regional centers of New Ulm, greater Mankato, Owatonna, and Rochester add economic diversity to our State and are poised for significant growth. Unfortunately, however, the lack of a four-lane highway connecting our communities leaves Southern Minnesota without the basic infrastructure it needs to realize its full potential.

For those nearly 400,000 people along Highway 14 and the businesses that serve them, the road is a central part of their daily lives. Individuals and businesses rely on this road for commuting to work, transporting goods, as well as accessing world-class medical facilities in Rochester. The road's remaining two-lane segments not only make the current situation dangerous, but inhibit economic growth and investment.

Business and community leaders in southern Minnesota have waited for the expansion of Highway 14 for nearly 45 years - through the administrations of nine US Presidents and eight Minnesota Governors. With the state's healthy economy and budget surplus, if the state was ever in a good position to complete this important project financially, that day is today. With this in mind, we the undersigned business and community leaders leave you with a simple message: fix it now.

Sincerely,



Brad Ahrenstorff
Chair, RNDC



Terry Genelin
Transportation Advisory Committee, RNDC

cc: Tenzin Dolkar, Office of Governor Mark Dayton and Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith
Rep. Frank Hornstein
Sen. Scott Dibble
Commissioner Charlie Zelle, MN Department of Transportation



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April 13, 2017

Dear Governor Dayton and Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

Going into the 2017 Legislative Session, you received a basket that included a budget surplus, low unemployment and sustained economic growth. From that position of strength, we heard from all sides that there was momentum (and resources) to set some priorities and make long-term strategic investments. As you evaluate the opportunities, we call upon you, our elected Governor and Legislators, to prioritize a transportation funding bill that funds and finishes the expansion plans for HWY 14 from New Ulm to Rochester.

Many of the jobs in the New Ulm area are connected to the manufacturing industry which depends on a safe, cost effective and efficient transportation system for the moving of employees and product. For the nearly 400,000 people living and working along the HWY 14 corridor, a completed four-lane highway connects the regional centers of New Ulm, Mankato, Owatonna and Rochester and provides the necessary and basic infrastructure for further development.

In New Ulm, we have watched and waited as portions of the project moved forward. However, the two-lane remaining segments are still dangerous and their current condition inhibits economic growth and investment. Completing the HWY 14 expansion would connect us to State Highway 169, State Highway 60 and Interstate 35 and other distribution points of Mankato and Owatonna.

Along the corridor and the surrounding region – business and community leaders in Southern Minnesota have waited for the expansion and completion of Hwy 14 for nearly 45 years – which spans 8 Minnesota Governors and over 20 legislative budget cycles. With the current large surplus and healthy economy, if ever the state was in a position to prioritize transportation and finish HWY 14 -- that time is now. “If it is important to you, you will find a way”.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Audra Shaneman, President and CEO, New Ulm Area Chamber of Commerce

New Ulm Chamber Board of Directors

Kathy VanRoekel, Board Chair, NU-Telecom

Mike Wise, Thriveon

Nick Hage, Citizens Agency

Jeff Bertrang, ISD 88 Superintendent

Jerry Sandmann, Century 21

Ann Wendinger, Sewing Seeds Quilt Com.

Jeremy Berg, Beren's, Rodenberg & O'Connor

Sara Ogren, 3M

Shari Fischer, Fischer Law

Heather Hammer, A to Zinnia Floral & Gifts

Jeff Messenger, New Ulm Medical Center

Jenni Neubauer, CliftonLarsonAllen

Tim Rahe, M R Paving



OWATONNA AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

04/14/2017

Dear Governor Dayton and Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

In a time of budget surplus, low unemployment, and sustained economic growth, we the undersigned implore the State of Minnesota to invest some of its current good fortune in the future economic growth of Southern Minnesota. Specifically, we call upon the Legislature and the Governor to sign a transportation funding bill that provides a path to complete Highway 14. Let's use our current prosperity to ensure continued growth and investment.

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For those nearly 400,000 people along Highway 14 and the businesses that serve them, the road is a central part of their daily lives. As businesses rely on this road for transporting goods and employees, they share the road with individuals who rely on Highway 14 to access world-class medical facilities in Rochester, or to commute to work. The road's remaining two-lane segments not only make the current situation dangerous, but inhibit economic growth and investment.

Business and community leaders in Southern Minnesota have now waited for the expansion of Highway 14 for nearly 45 years—through the administrations of 9 US Presidents and 8 Minnesota Governors. With its large surplus and healthy economy, if ever the state was in a position to complete this important project, that day is today. With this in mind, we the undersigned business and community leaders leave you with a simple message: fix it now.

Sincerely,

Brad Meier, President & CEO Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Board of Directors:

Julie Rethemeier, Federated Insurance Company (Chair)

Andrew Cowell, Profinium, Inc.

Nathan Dotson, Dotson Woodworking

Graham Frie, Mayo Clinic Health System – Owatonna

Steven Grams, Community Bank Owatonna

Pat Hawkins, Central Farm Service

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Kim Schaufenbuel, United Way of Steele County
Christopher Simpson, Wenger Corporation
Daren Wradislavsky, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites/43rd Street Pub & Grill/The Great Serengeti Indoor
Waterpark

ROCHESTER AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 17, 2017

Dear Gov. Dayton, Sen. Newman and Rep. Torkelson,

At the beginning of the 2016 legislative session, the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce communicated its priorities to our legislators in St. Paul. One of our top priorities was to create a long-term transportation infrastructure funding package that focuses on maintaining the system (roads and bridges). Although the legislature came very close to getting a funding package passed, eleventh hour partisan politics quashed those efforts and no progress was made.

Again in 2017, chambers of commerce across the state have rallied their members in support of transportation funding to address this essential need. Regional chambers asked the legislature to pass a long-term transportation bill that includes roads, bridges, airports and transit. In particular, we have focused the legislature on funding the long awaited travel and safety improvements on Highway 52, Highway 14 and across Southeast Minnesota.

Maintenance and improvement of our transportation infrastructure should not be a political football. It is not controversial or partisan. It is a key function and responsibility of our state and local governments. Our elected officials need to reach across the aisle and come together to do what is best for all of us.

Our manufacturing, agricultural and healthcare economies are dependent on our transportation infrastructure to get their products to market and patients to their critically needed services. Our businesses are reliant on our transportation infrastructure to get their employees to and from work. Without new investments to maintain and modernize our road, bridge and aviation systems, Minnesota risks losing out on future jobs and economic opportunities.

Our transportation system also plays a key role in the quality of life in our communities. Rochester was named the best city in America for the second consecutive year, and Southeast Minnesota is driving Minnesota's economy. We all have places to go and want to see our friends and family members arrive at their destinations safely, but our roads are becoming less safe with traffic accidents and fatalities on the rise across Minnesota. We are keenly aware of the need for a long-term transportation plan to ensure we have the ability to serve the future visitors and residents of Southeast Minnesota.

The need for increased investment is not debatable. Additional dollars are needed to improve our airports and the condition of our roadways and bridges. As the legislative session enters its final stretch, we need to remind legislators and the governor that our transportation system needs are not going away. Our state government needs to work together to fulfill its responsibility. Our representatives need to assure us that a long-term plan will be put into place, starting this year, so we can be confident that needed infrastructure investments will be made.

We implore our elected officials to come together and not allow political in-fighting to stifle our current and future success.

Sincerely,



Rob Miller
President, Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce

CC: Rep. Hornstein, Sen. Dibble and Commissioner Zelle

In a time of budget surplus, low unemployment, and sustained economic growth, we the undersigned implore the State of Minnesota to invest some of its current good fortune in the future economic growth of Southern Minnesota. Specifically, we call upon the Legislature and the Governor to sign a transportation funding bill that provides a path to complete Highway 14. Let's use our current prosperity to ensure continued growth and investment.

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Sincerely,



Kim Foels
President
Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce