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February 28, 2020

SERVING THE

COMMUNITIES OF:

MINNETONKA

CHANHASSEN

DEEPHAVEN

EDEN PRAIRIE

EXCELSIOR

GREENWOOD

SHOREWOOD

TONKA BAY

VICTORIA

WOODLAND

Sen. David J. Osmek
95 University Avenue W.
Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Kelly Morrison
429 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: MN TH41/Minnetonka Middle School West Intersection Safety Improvements

Dear Sen. Osmek and Rep. Morrison:

Together, the City of Chanhassen and the Minnetonka Public School District (#276) would like to formally notify you of our request for State Bond funding for the proposed safety improvement project at the access to Minnetonka Middle School West (MMSW, 6421 Hazeltine Boulevard) along Minnesota State Highway 41 in Chanhassen.

The MMSW, unfortunately, is completely isolated and cut off from surrounding local roadways and only has one access in and out of the property, which happens to be from TH41. This single point of access, which must accommodate not only passenger cars, but buses as well, creates a high demand on the intersection primarily at peak morning arrivals and afternoon dismissals timeframes. Additionally, this same intersection also serves as the only access for a senior memory care facility directly across TH41 from MMSW. To compound the problem even further, there is undeveloped property adjacent to the memory care facility that will require use of this same intersection as their only access point once developed.

A preliminary engineering study has been performed that investigated the traffic concerns, developed a concept intersection improvement layout, and established an estimated construction cost. The estimated construction cost is \$1,400,000, however the funding request is \$1,500,000 to account for other project costs and inflation. The preferred conceptual layout indicates construction of a roundabout rather than a traffic signal at the intersection. The concept layout also incorporates a potential future widening of TH41 to 4-lanes.

The study indicates that during a recent 5-year study period, there have been a total of 12 reported crashes, including 5 injury crashes. The average wait-time for vehicles exiting the school onto TH41 is seven (7) to eight (8) minutes with a queue length of 300 to 450 feet at peak times.

These dynamics result in a failing Level of Service and, as you can imagine, can cause frustration for the users. These frustrations can often lead to risk-taking behavior which could result in serious vehicle collisions.

The MMSW serves residents in portions of the communities of Chanhassen, Excelsior, Shorewood and Victoria, and has approximately 1,160 students.

This project will benefit not only the students, parents, staff, and visitors of the school, but the general TH41 traveling public at large.

Thank you very much for your support of this critically important safety improvement project at one of our vibrant and well attended public schools.

Sincerely,

CITY OF CHANHASSEN & MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (#276)



Elise Ryan
Mayor



Dennis Peterson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

cc: Todd Gerhardt, Chanhassen City Manager
Dr. Paula Hoff, MMSW Principal