

**CITY OF COLOGNE
RESOLUTION NO. 13-18
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR
US HIGHWAY 212: A COORIDOR 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 a High Priority 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;

WHEREAS Freight traffic in Southwest Minnesota will potentially grow by 200 percent by 2030, increasing truck traffic on Highway 212 dramatically;

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 is ready for construction in 2015 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;

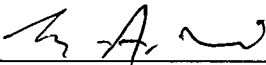
WHEREAS The 2009 Environmental Assessment determined the project has a benefit-cost ratio of 3.2 or better, exceeding the minimum threshold of 1.0;

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.

WHEREAS The Minnesota Legislature created and funded the Corridors of Commerce program in 2013 specifically to fund corridors like US Highway 212 that contain 2-lane segments in an otherwise 4-lane corridor and that serve an important freight movement function;

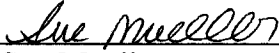
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Cologne strongly supports the inclusion of funding from the Corridors of Commerce program to help construct this \$38 million project to improve and expand US Highway 212 and that any maps or lists of Corridors of Commerce highways include US Highway 212.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cologne, Minnesota, this 7th day of October, 2013.



Matt Lein, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sue Mueller
Deputy Clerk

M/ McInnis

Lein Aye

Meyer Aye

Williams Aye

McInnis Aye

S/ Evenski

Evenski Aye