

**Senator Jim Abeler**  
Senate District 35

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**Senate**

State of Minnesota

May 12, 2025

To: Metropolitan Council and Transportation Advisory Board

RE: Legislative Comment on City of Anoka's Corridors of Commerce Readiness Request

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Council and TAB,

As the State Senator representing the City of Anoka and surrounding communities, I write in strong support of the City of Anoka's request for **\$4.235 million in Corridors of Commerce readiness funds** to advance long-needed safety and mobility improvements along **Highway 47 between Highway 10 and Bunker Lake Boulevard**.

I formally **approve of this application** and encourage you to advance it to MnDOT for scoring consideration.

This corridor includes the **most dangerous at-grade rail crossing in Minnesota** and is a known regional priority, with significant crash history, public safety concerns, and freight mobility challenges. The requested readiness funds would enable the City to complete environmental review, community engagement, and final design work needed to address both the rail crossing and the outdated S-curve that cuts through a residential neighborhood.

This is an opportunity to support a project that checks every box of the Corridors of Commerce program: safety, system stewardship, critical connections, equity, and economic vitality. Thank you for your work and for the chance to offer these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Abeler".

Senator Jim Abeler

**Zack Stephenson**  
State Representative

District 35A  
Anoka County



**Minnesota**  
**House of**  
**Representatives**

May 12, 2025

Steve Peterson  
Metropolitan Council Transportation Services  
390 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Peterson,

I am pleased to support the Corridors of Commerce grant application for the City of Anoka transportation improvements along Highway 47 between Highway 10 and Bunker Lake Boulevard in Anoka, including improvements at the Highway 47/BNSF Railway Crossing.

This project provides a significant opportunity to improve safety, enhance mobility, and increase efficiency for both residential and commercial traffic through the corridor. Currently, the Highway 47/BNSF Railway Crossing is the most dangerous at-grade rail crossing in the state, and five studies in the past 10 years recommend grade separation for improved safety and accessibility for all modes of transportation, including pedestrian and bicycling, along with accommodating future growth to the area. Investments along this corridor would improve traffic flow for area residential traffic and commercial traffic accessing Anoka's industrial park, which along with the railway access, has local and regional significance.

I am committed to continue partnering with MnDOT and the City of Anoka as they develop this project and explore other funding opportunities. I look forward to continued cooperation with MnDOT, the City of Anoka, and all the stakeholders involved in the project as this effort moves forward to improve critical safety and mobility on Highway 47.

Thank you for your interest and support in improving Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "ZS" with a stylized flourish.

Zack Stephenson  
State Representative 35A