



July 23, 2025

Nicole Westadt
Capital Planning Program Director
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1800

Nicole:

The Metropolitan Council is pleased to support all eight of the submitted project proposals within our MPO boundary as part of the 2025 Corridors of Commerce Readiness Advancement solicitation. Readiness funds can be used for planning, scoping, predesign, preliminary engineering, and environmental analysis. As projects continue to be developed as part of the Corridors of Commerce process and beyond, we request that project sponsors and MnDOT engage with and include agencies representing all impacted communities in the project development process to ensure that their input is fully heard and considered as decisions are made. The eight submitted projects include the following:

Project Sponsor	Project Location	Amount Requested
City of Elk River	Trunk Highway 10 & US Highway 169	\$1,600,000
City of Elko New Market	I-35 & CSAH 2	\$1,500,000
Dakota County	Trunk Highway 3 & CSAH 42	\$800,000
Carver County	Trunk Highway 5 between CSAH 11 & Commercial Avenue	\$3,000,000
City of Anoka	Trunk Highway 47 between US Highway 10 & Bunker Lake Boulevard	\$4,235,000
Anoka County	Trunk Highway 47 & CR 132/85 th Avenue	\$3,500,000
Anoka County	Trunk Highway 65 & US Highway 10	\$5,000,000
City of Maple Grove	Fish Lake Interchange (I-94/I-694/I-494)	\$2,000,000

Any funded projects must be developed consistent with the policies in our region's 2050 Transportation Policy Plan. For example, new interchanges or interchange access must successfully complete the interagency interchange review process described in the [Transportation Policy Plan's Preliminary Interchange Approval Process](#). If capital funding is eventually secured for any of the projects, the Metropolitan Council may need to add projects into the region's 2050 Transportation Policy Plan and Transportation Improvement Program (if the project is regionally significant or uses federal funds). Finally, projects that change access or add lanes to freeways, or construct new interchanges, within the seven county metro area must also request [Metro Freeway Project Approval](#) when the environmental documentation is complete.

As noted in the Corridors of Commerce application materials: Beginning February 1, 2025, [Minnesota Statutes 161.178](#) now requires capacity expansion projects to complete a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) impact assessment and conform with the State's GHG and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction targets prior to inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or a metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). What this means for Corridors of Commerce, specifically readiness advancement activities, is that an initial impact assessment must be completed as part of awards made under this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Carlson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Carlson" clearly distinguishable.

Charles Carlson
Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director
Metropolitan Council