

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

On behalf of Dakota County, I want to thank you for your leadership in supporting federal funding for critical projects to benefit County residents.

As Congress prepares to convene the second session of the 119th Congress, we want to highlight the following project approved by the House Appropriations Committee. We would greatly appreciate your support of this project as FY 2026 appropriations are finalized.

Dakota County I-35 CH 50 interchange

We would appreciate your support of \$2,000,000 for the I-35 CH 50 interchange project, included in the House Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill for FY 2026 at Congresswoman Craig's request.

The requested funding would be used to replace the I-35 bridges over County Road 50 and reconstruct the interchange in the city of Lakeville, including the expansion of County Road 50. The existing I-35 and County Road 50 interchange does not have sufficient capacity, sight distance or turn lanes. This results in delays and safety issues in this growing area of Lakeville, Dakota County's largest city and one of the fastest-growing cities in the state.

Dakota County and the City of Lakeville have been planning to replace this deficient interchange since 2004 and have made significant local investments in right-of-way acquisition, local road reconfiguration and drainage improvements. This project will improve transportation safety by addressing a long-standing need that was identified more than 20 years ago when County Road 50 was expanded from two to four travel lanes except for the area under I-35.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project for Dakota County.

Sincerely,

Laurie Halverson, Chair

County Board of Commissioners