



4/13/2026

House Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP)

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Aitkin, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The City recently pursued LRIP funding for the reconstruction of Bunker Hill Drive, a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.

The City of Aitkin, with a population of approximately 2,160 residents, has applied for this project through three separate LRIP solicitation cycles. Despite the project's clear merit, limited program funding and strong statewide competition have prevented it from advancing. Due to local budget constraints, the City is unable to deliver this project independently, and it has not progressed to implementation.

The proposed project focuses on the reconstruction of Bunker Hill Drive, a roadway that is not part of the state-aid system and therefore has limited access to other funding sources. Reconstruction would address existing deficiencies and improve safety, reliability, and long-term serviceability of this important local corridor.

Bunker Hill Drive provides critical access to Riverwood Healthcare Center, a non-profit regional Level III trauma center that also serves as a full-service healthcare facility offering primary care, specialty clinic services, physical therapy, dialysis, and other essential medical services. The roadway connects directly to State Highway 47 and County Road 12, making it a vital link for patients, emergency responders, and healthcare staff.

In addition to serving healthcare needs, Bunker Hill Drive supports key community services and growing housing developments. The roadway provides access to a newly constructed 44-unit workforce housing apartment complex, a planned 51-unit senior apartment complex, and North Ambulance Service. These developments further increase traffic volumes and underscore the importance of a safe, reliable roadway to support residents, workforce housing, emergency response, and future growth.

Ensuring safe and reliable access along this corridor is essential not only for Aitkin residents but for the broader region that depends on Riverwood and these supporting services for comprehensive care and community stability.

www.ci.aitkin.mn.us

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With LRIP funding, the City is prepared to move forward promptly. The project could be competitively bid in fall/winter of 2026, with construction and completion anticipated in 2027. The City of Aitkin is committed to funding its required local share and advancing the project in a timely and cost-effective manner.

LRIP remains one of the few programs available to small Minnesota communities to address critical local transportation needs—particularly for roads outside the state-aid system that cannot compete well in other state or federal funding programs. Without additional LRIP funding, projects like Bunker Hill Drive will continue to be deferred despite their importance to public safety, healthcare access, housing, emergency services, and community vitality for the City of Aitkin and other small communities like ours.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation and infrastructure goals, the City of Aitkin respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Respectfully,



Jennifer Thompson
City Administrator





April 9, 2026

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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Belle Plaine, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The City recently pursued LRIP funding for a roundabout at the intersection of Meridian Street (CSAH 3) and Enterprise Drive, a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.

Belle Plaine has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on three separate solicitation cycles. Due to a lack of external funding, success, and opportunities, as well as our local budget constraints, the city cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to our community to address critical local transportation system needs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety or at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Belle Plaine respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Meyer, City Administrator
City of Belle Plaine



CITY OF GHENT

PO BOX 97
107 N CHAPMAN STREET
GHENT, MN 56239
507-428-3214

April 9, 2026

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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Ghent, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The city recently pursued LRIP funding for McQuestion Street, a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.


Ghent has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on four (4) separate solicitation cycles. Due to a lack of external funding, success, and opportunities, as well as our local budget constraints, the city cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to small Minnesota communities to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety or at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Ghent respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dawn Vlaminc
Administrator/Clerk
City of Ghent

City of Hayfield
18 West Main St.- PO Box 53
Hayfield, MN 55940
Phone: (507) 477-3535
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Rich Fjerstad, Mayor
richfjerstad@gmail.com

Marnie Davis, City Clerk
cityclerk@hayfieldmn.com

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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Hayfield, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The city recently pursued LRIP funding for Main St & Center Ave Improvements a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.

Hayfield has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on 3 separate solicitation cycles. Due to a lack of external funding, success, and opportunities, as well as our local budget constraints, the city cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to small Minnesota communities to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety or at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Hayfield respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marnie Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marnie Davis
City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Hayfield



April 9, 2026

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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Kenyon, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The city recently pursued LRIP funding for our 6th Street Improvement project. This segment of roadway provides a critical connection between our region and the primary site for Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools (K-12).

Kenyon has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on two separate solicitation cycles. Due to a lack of external funding, success, and opportunities, as well as our local budget constraints, the city cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to small communities to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project.

Due to inadequate funding, this project has remained deferred. Despite increasing levels of annual maintenance, pavement is deteriorating at an increasing rate and is becoming a sizable problem.

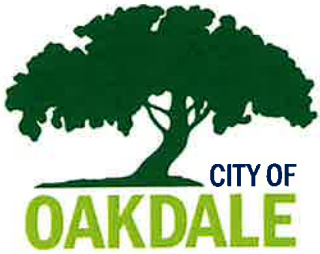
Funding would not only benefit the city, but the school district itself, which has recently been faced with significant financial hardships. To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Kenyon respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Lehner", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott Lehner
City Administrator
City of Kenyon



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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Oakdale, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The city recently pursued LRIP funding for the Helmo Avenue project from 4th Street to 15th Street, a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.

Oakdale pursued funding for this project through LRIP last year. Due to a lack of external funding, as well as our local budget constraints, the city cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety or at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Oakdale respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jake Foster, Assistant City Administrator
City of Oakdale



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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Plainview, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The city recently pursued LRIP funding for the 2nd Ave SW Reconstruction, a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.

Plainview has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on 3 separate solicitation cycles. Due to a lack of external funding, success, and opportunities, as well as our local budget constraints, the city cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

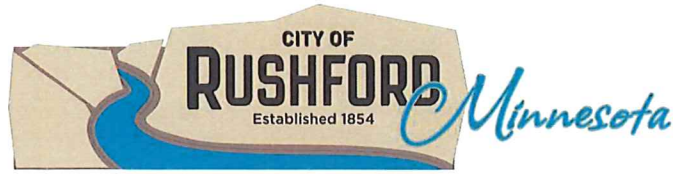
LRIP is one of the few programs available to small Minnesota communities to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety or at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Plainview respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David N.S. Todd
City Administrator
City of Plainview



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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Rushford, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The city recently pursued LRIP funding for our Elm Street reconstruction project. This segment of street connects two state highways and provides direct access to our fire/police/ambulance facility, multiple commercial and industrial businesses, and a recreational destination which brings in tourists from throughout the state.

Rushford has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on two separate solicitation cycles and we'll be submitting again for future opportunities. The street is deteriorating and the cost to adequately rebuild the street is simply more than our city can afford. While this street project is vital to our community and region, it cannot be done without external funding assistance.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to small Minnesota communities to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

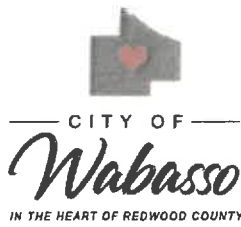
To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Rushford respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Hayden Stensgard", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Hayden Stensgard
City Administrator
City of Rushford



City of Wabasso

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Wabasso MN 56293

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E-mail: brandon@wabasso.org

April 13, 2026

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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the City of Wabasso, I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The city recently pursued LRIP funding for the Front & Main Street Improvements project, a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.

Wabasso has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on 4 separate solicitation cycles. Due to a lack of external funding, success, and opportunities, as well as our local budget constraints, the city cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to small Minnesota communities to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety or at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, the City of Wabasso respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandon Baune
Clerk/Treas. Administrator
City of Wabasso

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Heidi M. Latvaaho, Clerk/Treasurer

Lee Branville, Chairman

Supervisors: Mark Chad, Michael Erjavec, Richard Sather, Daniel Zbosnik

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RE: Support for Additional Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program

Chair Franson, Chair Lee, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of Fayal Township I am writing in support of additional funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The Town recently pursued LRIP funding for Thunderbird Trail a necessary infrastructure project that remains a high local priority.

Fayal Township has pursued funding for this project through LRIP on 3 separate solicitation cycles. Due to a lack of external funding, success, and opportunities, as well as our local budget constraints, the Town cannot resolve the project on its own, and the project has not progressed to implementation.

LRIP is one of the few programs available to small Minnesota communities to address critical local transportation system needs, projects that cannot compete in other MPO, statewide, or national programs. Local resources alone are insufficient to deliver the project in its entirety or at all. As a result, this project remains deferred even though it would address a clear and ongoing infrastructure need.

To ensure the program continues to advance state transportation goals, Fayal Township respectfully urges the Committee to support additional funding for LRIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Heidi M. Latvaaho
Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Fayal