

April 9, 2025

Representative Franson, Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Lee, Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Rochester Area Chamber Support for HF2272, Funding for Proposed Interchanges on TH14 at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3 and CSAH 5

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

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce requests your support for HF2272 which would provide funding for environmental analysis, predesign, and final design of two proposed grade separated interchanges in Olmsted County near the City of Byron. This project is a key legislative priority for the Rochester Area of Commerce, our over 1,200 members, and the residents and businesses of Olmsted County.

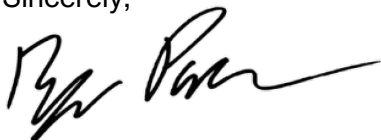
Completed in 2021, the U.S. Highway 14 Corridor Analysis Project established a long-term vision for the Highway 14 corridor between Rochester and Kasson. To enhance safety and mobility while encouraging development in the region, the plan calls for the construction of multiple interchanges along the Highway 14 corridor, including at the intersections of CSAH 3/TH 14 and CSAH 5/TH 14.

Necessitated by the continued growth of the Rochester region, this project will improve safety, enhance mobility, and allow for additional growth and development along the Highway 14 corridor. In the last decade, the existing intersections saw a combined 163 crashes, including three fatalities. The proposed interchanges will remove an at-grade railroad crossing and three at-grade intersections, including the last two remaining traffic signals between Rochester and Mankato, further enhancing safety and mobility along the Highway 14 corridor.

The U.S. Highway 14 corridor is a vital route for those traversing southern Minnesota. This project will not only enhance safety for residents but also for commuters, freight and commercial users, and the general public. The implementation of the U.S. Highway 14 Corridor vision plays a key role in unlocking vital economic opportunities in the Rochester region and Olmsted County.

We appreciate your consideration of HF2272 which would provide funding for environmental analysis, predesign, and final design of two proposed grade separated interchanges at the intersections of TH 14 at CSAH 3 and CSAH 5. We encourage your **support of HF2272** and inclusion of it in the 2025 Bonding Bill as his project would improve safety and facilitate economic development in the region.

Sincerely,



Ryan Parsons, President
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce