

**Highway 75 Infrastructure Improvements, City of Lake Benton**  
**House File 874**

The City of Lake Benton is requesting \$863,000 in bond proceeds to assist our community with water and sewer improvements that are needed along Highway 75. Our community has the opportunity to coordinate these infrastructure improvements with the MnDOT Highway 75 road reconstruction project which will occur in 2027. Our small community of 698 people in Southwest Minnesota is faced with many road, sewer, and water improvements and maintenance costs. However, even though our community is faced with many public facility needs, we feel it is critical to prioritize water and sewer improvements in coordination with the Highway 75 project as it is more cost-effective approach and it will be less disruptive to residents, businesses, and travelers. During the Highway 75 reconstruction project and resurfacing of Highway 14, all highway traffic that would normally pass by our community will be detoured around Lake Benton. This will no doubt have a negative economic impact to our community, and therefore why it is critical we coordinate these efforts.

The total cost of improvements is \$1,726,100, which includes \$1,006,492 in sewer improvements and \$719,608 for water improvements. The existing watermain system has an estimated age of over 60 years old. Pipes of this age typically exhibit severe pitting, heavy iron build-up and lead packed joints. Over the past ten years the City has experienced nearly one break per year on this watermain or the service lines. The service line valves are beginning to fail along with the main line gate valves. The fire hydrants are also past their useful life. A new watermain will increase the supply and fire flow characteristics of the system.

The sewer system along Highway 75 was televised several years ago and is in very poor condition. The VCP pipe sections have become brittle, have both radial and longitudinal cracking, and joint separation and misalignments. The brick manholes have severe mortar loss, cracking, and deteriorating bricks. A system in this condition allows for a large amount of inflow and infiltration. The pipes are also known to collapse or have large chunks of pipe fall which can lead to sewer backups in the mains and in severe cases into homes and businesses.

The Highway 75 reconstruction project by MnDOT will greatly enhance vehicle and pedestrian traffic safety and we are excited for the project outcome. We appreciate your consideration of our funding request to ensure this is a coordinated effort to improve our public infrastructure.