



SCALE

Scott County Association
for Leadership & Efficiency

Members

Cities:

Belle Plaine
Credit River
Elko New Market
Jordan
New Prague
Prior Lake
Savage
Shakopee

Townships:

Belle Plaine
Blakeley
Cedar Lake
Helena
Jackson
Louisville
New Market
St. Lawrence
Sand Creek
Spring Lake

School Districts:

Belle Plaine
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage
Jordan
New Prague
Prior Lake-Savage
Shakopee
Shakopee Area Catholic
Schools
Southwest Metro
Intermediate District

County Entities:

Scott County
Scott County Community
Development Agency
Scott County Township
Association

Tribal Community:

Shakopee Mdewakanton
Sioux Community

Regional Entities:

Metro Cities (AMM)
Minnesota Valley Transit
Authority
Prior Lake-Spring Lake
Watershed District
Scott Soil & Water
Conservation District
Three Rivers Park District

April 2, 2026

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Hon. Rep. María Isa Pérez-Vega
Hon. Rep. Liz Reyer
Hon. Rep. Jay Xiong
Cc: Ms. Jenny Nash

RE: Letter of Support – Scott County Trunk Highway 13 Road (HF4476)

Dear Chairs Franson and Lee and members of the committee,

We are writing in strong support of House File 4476 requesting capital investment funding for the Trunk Highway 13 reconstruction project in Scott County—SCALE’s top bonding priority for the 2026 legislative session.

This project is a critical component of the Highway 13 River, Rail, and Road Initiative, a 25-year effort to transform this corridor into a safe, efficient, and economically vital grade-separated highway. Planned improvements include interchanges at major intersections, frontage road connections to intermodal rail and barge facilities, and integrated transit and pedestrian infrastructure to improve mobility and safety for all users.

Highway 13 is a designated route on both the National Highway System and the National Multimodal Freight Network, underscoring its importance to regional and national commerce. It serves as the primary east-west connection between U.S. Highway 169 and Interstate 35W in the southern Twin Cities and is the sole access route to the Ports of Savage—the largest private inland intermodal grain facility in the upper Midwest. This corridor supports a significant share of Minnesota’s economic activity and is currently the second most congested freight corridor in the metro area.

The proposed project will convert approximately 3.5 miles of at-grade expressway into a grade-separated corridor between Quentin Avenue and Nicollet Avenue. These improvements will eliminate at-grade crossings, reduce congestion, and address documented safety concerns, including crash rates that exceed expected levels. Today, Highway 13 acts as both a transportation bottleneck and a safety barrier for residents, businesses, and freight movement.

In addition to improving safety and mobility, this investment will unlock substantial economic development opportunities. The corridor supports a diverse mix of agri-business, food processing, manufacturing, and commercial activity, as well as growing residential areas. Modernizing this infrastructure will enhance regional competitiveness and support long-term growth.

We respectfully urge you to include full funding for this project in the 2026 bonding bill to close the remaining funding gap and advance this critical infrastructure investment.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of transportation and economic development in Scott County.

Sincerely,



James Evans, Mayor
Belle Plaine



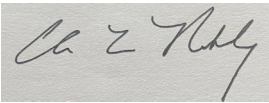
Chris Kostik, Mayor
Credit River
SCALE Chair



Andrew Ganfield,
Mayor
Elko New Market



Travis Fremming,
Mayor Jordan



Charles L. Nickolay,
Mayor
New Prague

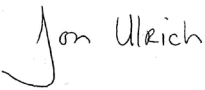


Kirt Briggs, Mayor Prior Lake



Christine Kelly, Mayor
Savage

Matt Lehman, Mayor
Shakopee



Jon Ulrich, Chair
Scott County Board of
Commissioners