

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2018

Commissioner Charles Zelle
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Dear Commissioner Zelle,

We are writing to express our strong support for the completion of the capacity expansion project of the Interstate 94 West Corridor (I-94), specifically Phase 2, from St. Michael to Albertville.

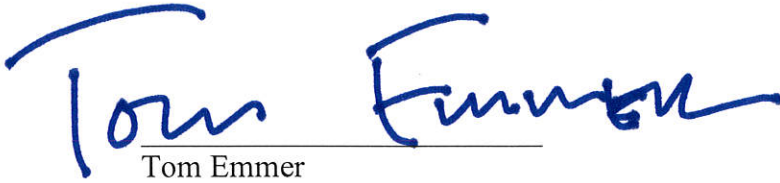
As you know, I-94 runs through the entire state of Minnesota. It provides a vital connection to our constituents utilizing I-35 and I-90, making it an important local, state, regional, and national transportation corridor. While Minnesota's metropolitan communities and businesses have continued to expand, transportation infrastructure has not kept pace, creating a strain on those who rely on this important corridor. Minnesotans currently face significant congestion as they travel along I-94. Passengers and freight spend many hours delayed, and studies have shown that I-94 has a crash severity rate that is much higher than the statewide average.

Phase 2 of the I-94 project has received \$1.4 million in Corridors of Commerce funding for initial design and engineering. We urge you to continue to support the completion of this project as we work with our colleagues in Congress to provide federal support for this and other important transportation infrastructure improvements that directly benefit Minnesotans.

Local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, and other stakeholders have formed the Minnesota I-94 West Corridor Coalition to work to expand the capacity of I-94 and address the growing strain on those who rely on the corridor for the transportation of goods, commuting, and tourism. We believe that this corridor is well-positioned to leverage local and state funding with new federal resources to further promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

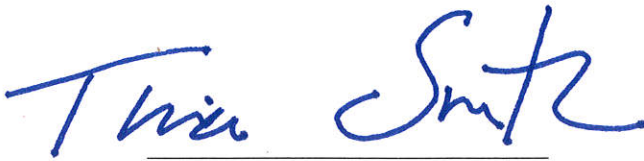
Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress



Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress