



# COUNTY OF STEARNS

*Office of the County Administrator*

Administration Center Rm 121 • 705 Courthouse Square • St. Cloud, MN 56303  
320-656-3601 • Fax 320-656-6393 • [www.co.stearns.mn.us](http://www.co.stearns.mn.us)

March 7, 2023

Congressman Tom Emmer  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Trunk Highway 23 Foley to Mora Feasibility Study

Dear Congressman Emmer:

The Highway 23 Coalition is requesting funding for a 36.4 mile feasibility study of Highway 23 between the cities of Foley and Mora to address safety issues along this critical two lane trunk highway route. This section of Trunk Highway 23 has experienced a significant number of serious and fatal crashes, and the proposed study will help to identify projects that will increase safety along the route. Many of the roadway users are Stearns County residents or they are traveling to Stearns County for work, school or to otherwise conduct business in the regional center of St. Cloud. Increased safety along this route would improve the lives of Stearns County residents.

Stearns County fully supports the Highway 23 Coalition's application for a feasibility study between the cities of Foley and Mora, and encourages you to fund the request. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at [joseph.perske@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:joseph.perske@co.stearns.mn.us) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Joe Perske, Chair  
Stearns County Board of Commissioners



***Benton County Mission:  
Providing excellent customer service in a fiscally responsible manner***

January 9, 2023

Transportation District Engineer Mike Ginnaty  
MNDOT District 3  
7694 Industrial Park Road  
Baxter, Mn 56425-8096

Dear District Engineer Ginnaty:

I am writing on behalf of the Benton County Board of Commissioners, asking your support for a "4-Lane Feasibility Study" of Trunk Highway 23 from Foley to Mora.

Benton County is a member of the Highway 23 Coalition. As a member, we urge MNDOT to continue eliminating the two-lane gaps in TH 23. Our first concern is safety. The two-lane segment from Foley to Mora has numerous intersections and driveway entrances. Passing slow-moving vehicles can be very challenging with the traffic volumes. And second, a four-lane highway will help to ensure a more efficient movement of people and commerce through the corridor.

Here in Benton County we witnessed the transformation of TH 23 to four lanes between St. Cloud and Foley. That project accomplished both goals we stated for the Foley to Mora segment. We urge MNDOT to keep this momentum going and study converting the Foley/Mora gap to four-lanes.

Our coalition is over 100 members strong, and counts among its membership 62 businesses, 15 cities and 12 counties along the corridor. We appreciate the support of MNDOT over the years to address the safety and mobility needs of the TH 23 Corridor. We stand ready to advocate for necessary funding as a partner with MNDOT.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson  
Board Chair

County Board:  
Scott Johnson, District 1  
Ed Popp, District 2  
Steve Heinen, District 3  
Jared Gapinski, District 4  
Beth Schlangen, District 5

531 Dewey Street  
P.O. Box 129  
Foley, MN 56329  
Benton County's Website:  
[www.co.benton.mn.us](http://www.co.benton.mn.us)

(320) 968-5000 Main  
(320) 968-5329 Fax  
(320) 968-8842 TDD  
Email Address:  
[info@co.benton.mn.us](mailto:info@co.benton.mn.us)



***Benton County Mission:  
Providing excellent customer service in a fiscally responsible manner***

March 3, 2023

Congressman Tom Emmer  
Minnesota's 6th Congressional District  
9201 Quaday Ave. NE  
Suite 206  
Otsego, MN 55330

Dear Congressman Emmer:

As the Benton County Commissioner for District 1 and Board Chair, I am pleased to support the Foley to Mora Highway 23 Feasibility Study for consideration of funding in the 2023 Community Project Funding solicitation. I understand that this feasibility study is a high priority need to address a critical two-lane gap and many severe and fatal crashes on a trunk highway route providing east-west regional connection between US Highways 10 and 169 and further to I-35. Also, those funds will be used to further develop priority projects identified by the study.

The safety of residents and commuters and efficiency of operations for our businesses is a top priority for the Benton Board of Commissioners. Inadequacies in the transportation system can result in supply chain bottlenecks resulting in uncertainties for many. Just in our County alone, Highway 23 has six major intersections with County roads between Foley and the Mille-Lacs County line. Add to that many private driveways and field accesses in this same space, all contributing to increased risks of collisions on a very heavily-traveled State trunk highway.

For the reasons above, I reiterate the importance of this project for District 1 as well as the rest of Benton County. I commend the Highway 23 Coalition's efforts in planning for and pursuing funding to implement such beneficial regional investments and I look forward to providing continued support.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson  
District 1 Commissioner and Board Chair

County Board:  
Scott Johnson, District 1  
Ed Popp, District 2  
Steve Heinen, District 3  
Jared Gapinski, District 4  
Beth Schlangen, District 5

531 Dewey Street  
P.O. Box 129  
Foley, MN 56329  
Benton County's Website:  
[www.co.benton.mn.us](http://www.co.benton.mn.us)

(320) 968-5000 Main  
(320) 968-5329 Fax  
(320) 968-8842 TDD  
Email Address:  
[info@co.benton.mn.us](mailto:info@co.benton.mn.us)





CITY OF  
**MILACA** *Minnesota*

255 First Street East, Milaca, MN 56353

(320)983-3141 | (320)983-3142 fax

*March 2, 2023*

Congressman Tom Emmer  
Minnesota's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
9201 Quaday Ave. NE  
Suite 206  
Otsego, MN 55330

Dear Congressman Emmer,

On behalf of the City of Milaca, I am pleased to support the Foley to Mora Highway 23 Feasibility Study for consideration of funding in the 2023 Community Project Funding solicitation. We understand that this feasibility study is a high priority need to address a critical two-lane gap and many severe and fatal crashes on a trunk highway route providing east-west regional connection between US Highways 10 and 169 and further to I-35. Also, those funds will be used to further develop priority projects identified by the study.

This study area has seen seventeen fatal and twelve serious injury crashes in the last ten years and the study area carries up to 12,000 vehicles per day including 1,100 heavy commercial freight vehicles. Our region's economy is heavily supported by industries that rely on the transportation of physical goods to support their operations. These freight-related industries employ nearly thirty-five percent of our region's workforce. Manufacturing, retail trade, and construction place high demand on this segment of Highway 23 as well as access for our residents to reach jobs and services.

Due to the safety and mobility concerns related to this critical two-lane gap on Highway 23, City of Milaca, has recognized the need for improvements. This is an important investment to provide safety and mobility improvements along Highway 23, the second longest state transportation system traveling from Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin.

For the reasons above, City of Milaca, endorses the Foley to Mora Highway 23 Feasibility Study and urges decisions makers to prioritize it for funding.

Sincerely,

Signature  
Tammy Pfaff  
City Manager  
City of Milaca



OFFICE OF THE  
**KANABEC COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

317 Maple Ave East, Suite 181  
Mora, MN 55051  
Telephone: (320) 679-6440  
Fax: (320) 679-6441

District #1, Peter Ripka  
District #2, Alison Holland  
District #3, Wendy Caswell  
District #4, Rick Mattson  
District #5, Tom Roeschlein

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March 4, 2023

Congressman Tom Emmer  
Minnesota's 6th Congressional District  
9201 Quaday Ave. NE  
Suite 206  
Otsego, MN 55330

Dear Congressman Emmer,

As the Kanabec County Commissioner for District Two, I am pleased to support the Foley to Mora Highway 23 Feasibility Study for consideration of funding in the 2023 Community Project Funding solicitation. Highway 23 connects the municipalities across our county, and further connects us to US Highways 169 and 10, and I-35. I understand that this feasibility study is a high priority need to address the many severe and fatal crashes on this trunk highway route.

Highway 23 is essential to my community's connection to economic, education, and leisure opportunities. It is also a critical connector to medical and dental care for many residents, including veterans who access care at the St. Cloud VA Healthcare System.

For the reasons above, I reiterate the importance of this project for District Two as well as the rest of Kanabec County. With the requested funds, the Study would provide the information needed to further develop priority projects for the Highway. I commend the Highway 23 Coalition's efforts in planning for and pursuing funding to implement such beneficial regional investments and I look forward to providing continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Holland', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Alison Holland  
Kanabec County Commissioner, District Two



District #1, Peter Ripka  
District #2, Alison Holland  
District #3, Wendy Caswell  
District #4, Rick Mattson  
District #5, Tom Roeschlein

OFFICE OF THE  
**KANABEC COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

18 North Vine Street, Suite 181  
Mora, MN 55051  
Telephone: (320) 679-6440  
Fax: (320) 679-6441

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January 17, 2023

Transportation District Engineer Mike Ginnaty  
MNDOT District 3  
7694 Industrial Park Road  
Baxter, MN 56425-8096

Dear District Engineer Ginnaty:

I am writing on behalf of the Kanabec County Board of Commissioners, asking your support for a "4-Lane Feasibility Study" of Trunk Highway 23 from Foley to Mora.

Kanabec County is a member of the Highway 23 Coalition. As a member, we urge MNDOT to continue eliminating the two-lane gaps in TH 23. Our first concern is safety. The two-lane segment from Foley to Mora has numerous intersections and driveway entrances. Passing slow-moving vehicles can be very challenging with the traffic volumes. And second, a four-lane highway will help to ensure a more efficient movement of people and commerce through the corridor.

Our coalition is over 100 members strong, and counts among its membership 62 businesses, 15 cities and 12 counties along the corridor. We appreciate the support of MNDOT over the years to address the safety and mobility needs of the TH 23 Corridor. We stand ready to advocate for necessary funding as a partner with MNDOT.

Sincerely,

Rickey Mattson  
Board Chair

Cc: Chad Gramentz, Kanabec County Public Works Director  
Jim Hartshorn, EDA Director



*Board of Commissioners*  
635 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE  
Milaca, MN 56353

January 17, 2023

Transportation District Engineer Mike Ginnaty  
MNDOT District 3  
7694 Industrial Park Road  
Baxter, Mn 56425-8096

Dear District Engineer Ginnaty:


I am writing on behalf of the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners; we are seeking your support for a "4-Lane Feasibility Study" of Trunk Highway 23 from Foley to Mora.

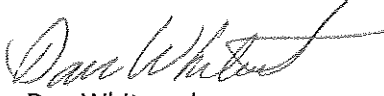
Mille Lacs County is a member of the Highway 23 Coalition. As a member, we urge MNDOT to continue eliminating the two-lane gaps in TH 23. Our first concern is safety. The two-lane segment from Foley to Mora has numerous intersections and driveway entrances. Passing slow-moving vehicles can be very challenging with the traffic volumes. And second, a four-lane highway will help to ensure a more efficient movement of people and commerce through the corridor.


Here in Mille Lacs County we witnessed the transformation of TH 23 to four lanes between St. Cloud and Foley. That project accomplished both goals stated for the Foley to Mora segment. We urge MNDOT to keep this momentum going and study converting the Foley/Mora gap to four-lanes.

Our coalition is over 100 members strong, and counts among its membership 62 businesses, 15 cities and 12 counties along the corridor. We appreciate the support of MNDOT over the years to address the safety and mobility needs of the TH 23 Corridor. We stand ready to advocate for necessary funding as a partner with MNDOT.

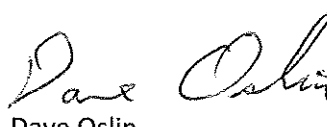
Sincerely,

  
Genny Reynolds  
District 1

  
Dan Whitcomb  
District 2

  
Roger Tellinghuisen  
District 4

  
Phil Peterson  
District 3

  
Dave Oslin  
District 5



# PINE COUNTY

## Administrator's Office

635 Northridge Drive NW  
Suite 200  
Pine City, MN 55063  
1-800-450-7463 Ext. 1620  
Fax: 320-591-1628

### Commissioners

Steve Hallan – Dist. 1  
Josh Mohr – Dist. 2  
Terry Lovgren – Dist. 3  
J.J. Waldhalm – Dist. 4  
Matt Ludwig – Dist. 5

### County Administrator

David J. Minke

January 17, 2023

Mike Ginnaty, District Engineer  
MNDOT District 3  
7694 Industrial Park Road  
Baxter, MN 56425-8096

via email only

[mike.ginnaty@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.ginnaty@state.mn.us)

Dear District Engineer Ginnaty:

I am writing on behalf of the Pine County Board of Commissioners who have approved this letter of support for a "4-Lane Feasibility Study" of Trunk Highway 23 from Foley to Mora.

Pine County is a member of the Highway 23 Coalition. As a member, we urge MNDOT to continue eliminating the two-lane gaps in TH 23. Safety is our first concern. The two-lane segment from Foley to Mora has numerous intersections and driveway entrances. Passing slow-moving vehicles is challenging and dangerous. A four-lane highway will help to ensure a more efficient movement of people and commerce through the corridor and we look forward to continuing progress from Mora to Hinckley.

Our coalition is over 100 members strong and counts among its membership 62 businesses, 15 cities and 12 counties along the corridor. We appreciate the support of MNDOT over the years to address the safety and mobility needs of the TH 23 corridor. We stand ready to advocate for necessary funding as a partner with MNDOT.

Sincerely,

Terry Lovgren, Vice Chair  
Pine County Board of Commissioners

TL/dg