



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

June 23, 2025

Nicole Westadt
Office of Transportation System Management
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Letter of Support for Corridors of Commerce Readiness Advancement – US Hwy 2 Low Clearance Railroad Bridge

Dear Ms. Westadt,

On behalf of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) Policy Board, we are writing to express our strong support for the Corridors of Commerce Readiness Advancement application submitted by the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, for improvements to the US Highway 2 low clearance railroad bridge.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's District 1 Freight Plan identified Highway 2 as one of the key freight corridors in northeastern Minnesota. Highway 2 provides access between the Iron Range and Grand Rapids to Duluth and Interstate 35. Maintaining mobility throughout Highway 2 is important to the economic health of the region. The District 1 Freight Plan identified several improvement projects based on data analysis, stakeholder input, safety, performance, and condition considerations and developed a ranked list of 30 projects. The low clearance Highway 2 railroad bridge was one of the top 20 projects, underscoring the importance of the bridge as a freight movement barrier.

The MIC considers this project consistent with the Corridors of Commerce program goals that emphasize the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight. This project would advance solutions for Bridge #5204 over US Highway 2, just west of the intersection of Highway 2 and TH 194. The Canadian Northern railroad bridge has substandard vertical and horizontal clearance, making it a major barrier to freight movement on the highway. The project will evaluate either replacing the bridge or lowering the roadway under the bridge.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Duluth, MN-Superior, WI area, the MIC is charged with transportation planning for all modes of travel. Our mission includes dedication to region-wide transportation planning and acting as a forum (with our member committees) for transportation issues in the urbanized area. The initiatives within this grant application support a key objective within the MPOs Metropolitan Transportation Plan; that of safe and efficient movement of people and goods within the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area.

221 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 529-7541
www.dsmic.org

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through a joint
venture of the
Arrowhead Regional
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Thank you for your consideration and approval of this application for a grant to help fund the improvements to the Hwy 2 low clearance railroad bridge under the Corridors of Commerce Program. If you have any questions or need any further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ron Chicka
MIC Director



Wayne Boucher
MN Board Co-Chair



Nick Baker
WI Board Co-Chair

cc: Wayne Boucher, MN MIC Policy Board Co-Chair
Nick Baker, WI MIC Policy Board Co-Chair
Jeff Udd, Director of Government & Environmental Affairs, Duluth Seaway Port Authority



