



Aitkin  
County

# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

**5A**  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** 5-10-22

**Title of Item:** Resolution of Support for RSTG Grant Application - US Hwy 169

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	<b>Action Requested:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
<i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>		

<b>Submitted by:</b> John Welle	<b>Department:</b> Highway Department
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<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer	<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 10 minutes
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**Summary of Issue:**  
MnDOT is planning for resurfacing and shoulder widening work on the 24-mile segment of US Hwy 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to TH 200 in Hill City in 2027.

The Rural Surface Transportation Grant grant program within the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity provides federal funding for construction projects with significant national or regional impact or to improve or expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. Since US Hwy 169 is an important freight corridor for northern Minnesota, and given that this segment of highway has one of the highest fatal crash rates in the entire state, MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 are working to secure discretionary grant funding for this project. As part of the application packet, they have requested a resolution of support from Aitkin County.

Note that my office is also working to obtain the same resolution of support from Itasca County and the cities of Aitkin, Palisade, Hill City, and Grand Rapids.

**Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:**

**Recommended Action/Motion:**  
Adopt attached resolution of support.

**Financial Impact:**  
 Is there a cost associated with this request?  Yes  No  
 What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$  
 Is this budgeted?  Yes  No *Please Explain:*

By Commissioner: xx

20220510-xxx

**US HWY 169 RSTG Grant Application**

**WHEREAS**, US Highway 169 in Aitkin County is part of the National Highway System (NHS) and is an important regional, statewide and national freight corridor serving the agricultural, forestry, mining, manufacturing, retail, and tourism industries, and

**WHEREAS**, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 does not meet geometric safety standards for shoulder width and slopes within the recovery area, and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of paved standard-width shoulders on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 represents a severe freight safety gap in the US Highway 169 corridor, as the entire remainder of this NHS corridor has wide paved shoulders in place, or is programmed to receive such improvements, and

**WHEREAS**, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200, based on available crash and traffic data, has a fatal crash rate of over 2.1 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled over the past ten years, which is one of the highest rates of any NHS highway segment in the northern region of Minnesota and over 250 percent above the median crash rate for NHS routes in the northern region of Minnesota, and

**WHEREAS**, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 was identified in the 2019 District 1 Freight Plan as one of only four segments in District 1 with an overlap between stakeholder-identified safety needs and data-identified safety needs, and

**WHEREAS**, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 was identified in the 1998 Trunk Highway 169/210 Corridor Study prepared by MnDOT District 3 as needing wider shoulders to address freight movement and safety concerns, and

**WHEREAS**, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 is currently scheduled to be programmed for resurfacing and shoulder widening improvements in 2027, and

**WHEREAS**, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant (RSTG) Program within the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity exists to provide funding to construction projects with significant national or regional impact or to improve or expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas, and

**WHEREAS**, an application for the RSTG Program is being submitted by MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 for resurfacing and shoulder widening on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the RSTG application being submitted for the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in the event that the RSTG application is not successful, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the continuing efforts of MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 to construct the long overdue shoulder widening improvements on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 in 2027.

Commissioner xx moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

**FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT**

**All Members Voting Yes**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA}  
COUNTY OF AITKIN}**

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

**Witness my hand and seal this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022**

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Jessica Seibert  
County Administrator