



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR TRANSPORTATION IN CARVER COUNTY

WHEREAS Carver County is projected to experience a population growth from 91,042 people in 2010 to 151,720 people in 2040 with a corresponding increase in households from 32,891 in 2010 to 60,550 in 2040 which will generate an additional 212,000 trips per day in the region;

WHEREAS construction funding is not currently available to make needed safety and efficiency improvements to critical corridors such as Highways 212, 5 and 41;

WHEREAS Highway 212 serves a critical role in connecting the Twin Cities to South Dakota and Beyond and has been designated a High Priority Interregional Corridor in the Twin Cities, while also being placed on the National Highway System;

WHEREAS Carver County, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is seeking FASTLANE funds to expand Highway 212 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane highway between the Cities of Cologne and Carver which requires a local match;

WHEREAS this two-lane gap poses a number of safety, access and mobility issues, while negatively impacting freight movement and economic development initiatives;

WHEREAS Highway 5 has outgrown its original design and poses some serious safety risks as more and more cars travel in this 2-lane corridor to reach important destinations like Ridgeview Medical Center, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, work destinations and to commute to and from destinations east of TH41;

WHEREAS 27 other counties in Minnesota have enacted a local one-half percent sales tax increase to generate funding that will allow highway and transit projects to be completed;

WHEREAS a ½ percent sales tax in Carver County would generate over \$3.5 million in funds that will allow the county to leverage millions of highway dollars from state and federal programs like the Corridors of Commerce, Transportation Economic Development and FASTLANES programs which all require a local match;

WHEREAS the Carver County Board of Commissioners is seeking feedback from cities, townships, the public, and other stakeholders on the potential implementation of the sales tax to fund high priority projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that should the Carver County Board of Commissioners implement the local transportation sales tax that the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition, comprised of local governments and businesses in Carver County and beyond, strongly supports utilizing the increased revenue to fund Highway 212 and Highway 5 improvements in Carver County.

ADOPTED ON March 17, 2017

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Randy Maluchnik, President
Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition