



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Barbara Johnson
Minneapolis City Council President
Minneapolis City Hall
350 S 5th St Rm 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

August 21, 2007

Dear City Council President Johnson:

Nearly three weeks ago, Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis suffered a tragedy of horrific proportions. Yet people from all walks of life came together to respond to this disaster with great courage and resolve.

Please extend my sincere thanks to the Minneapolis City Council and staff for your remarkable work in addressing this challenge and efforts to move forward.

Today the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is submitting to the City Council a layout of the proposed Interstate 35W Bridge for your consideration. When the bridge opens, it will have the capacity to accommodate ten lanes of traffic, two of which could be devoted to bus-rapid-transit and/or managed lanes.

In response to your concerns, please also know that I have directed MnDOT to design and construct an LRT-ready bridge which may help accommodate our future transportation needs. I believe this effort is in keeping with the content and spirit of the Council's "Statement of Principles" adopted at your meeting last Friday.

Based on the recent and timely efforts of the Council, I trust you are aware of the reports of \$400,000 in daily road user costs associated with the loss of this bridge. We are also in the process of tallying other cost impacts due to the lack of bridge service and expect to report this in the near future. I am also directing MnDOT to support your efforts to achieve a speedy and thorough municipal consent process.

Thank you again for your leadership and efforts during this difficult time. I look forward to working together on this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

C: The Honorable R.T. Rybak, Minneapolis Mayor
Minneapolis City Council Members
The Honorable Carol Molnau, Lieutenant Governor and Transportation Commissioner