



August 11, 2010

**Physical Development Division
Lynn Thompson, Director**

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8579
952.891.7000
Fax 952.891.7031
www.dakotacounty.us

Environmental Mgmt. Department
Office of GIS
Parks and Open Space Department
Surveyor's Office
Transit Office
Transportation Department
Water Resources Department

Honorable Mayor Gene Winstead
City of Bloomington
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431

Re: Letter of Support for TIGER II Grant Funding Application

Dear Mayor Winstead:

Dakota County, in conjunction with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and Metropolitan Council, is developing the Cedar Avenue Transitway – a regional transitway which will serve Bloomington's South Loop District at the Mall of America Transit Station and 28th Avenue Park and Ride through bus rapid transit (BRT) services.

The Mall of America Transit Station is one of the busiest transit hubs in the Minneapolis-St Paul metropolitan area. This transit hub will host up to four future BRT lines in addition to many existing local routes and the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit line. Although Bloomington does not lie within Dakota County, transit service to the South Loop District is important element for the success of future the Cedar Avenue BRT services. It is anticipated that Cedar BRT services will provide access to Bloomington's South Loop Distinct and will utilize the Lindau Lane for access to transitway destinations.

Dakota County and the City of Bloomington continue to work cooperatively on the master planning of South Loop to promote transit oriented development. The Lindau Lane Corridor and Safety Enhancements is an important step in this effort. Therefore, Dakota County supports the Lindau Corridor Complete Street and Safety Enhancements project.

Dakota County looks forward to continued cooperation with the City of Bloomington as this project, and many others, move forward for the public benefit. Please contact me if there are questions or comments at sam.oconnell@co.dakota.mn.us or 952.891.7105.

Sincerely,

Sam O'Connell, AICP
Acting Transit Manager

n:\highway\correspondence\day files\2010 day files\transit\081110 mayor winstead city of blmgtm.docx

