

**John Ward**  
State Representative

District 12A  
Crow Wing County



# Minnesota House of Representatives

**COMMITTEES: VICE-CHAIR, K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION  
EARLY CHILDHOOD FINANCE AND POLICY DIVISION  
PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE DIVISION**

August 19, 2010

Kathryn J. McFadden, MLA  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
Office of Technical Support  
395 John Ireland Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Subject: TIGER II Grant Application for Garrison Area Projects

I write to express my strong support for the TIGER II Grant application being submitted for project funding for three historic properties in the Garrison area: Whitefish Creek Bridge, Garrison Pedestrian Underpass and Garrison Concourse Phase II. It is my understanding that the TIGER II discretionary grant program has about \$600 million in competitive funds, with \$140 million of that reserved for projects in rural areas. These Garrison area projects will require about \$7 million in funding. The collaboration of citizen groups and local units of government has inspired me to do what I can to assist them in ensuring these projects become a reality.

These are three of region's most notable and visited landmarks and they are in need of attention, not only to preserve the structural integrity but to improve the functionality and ensure their full use and enjoyment by all who visit. The town of Garrison depends upon these landmarks to bring people to the area and to facilitate their enjoyable and comfortable travel while visiting. In addition, these landmarks serve as a monument of the critical investment made by the federal government in our people and places during very difficult times. The same investments are needed now as well, with the effects of the recession still being felt throughout much of Crow Wing County.



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In addition to preserving the structural and historical significance of these landmarks, improvements are planned that will allow for increased use for generations to come. There will be extensions of sidewalks and trails to accommodate additional modes of transport such as walking, bicycles and motorized carts. The lighting system will be enhanced with LED lights and the nearby MnDOT/Garrison truck station will be equipped with a solar collection system, improving safety and increasing the sustainability of the landmarks. Enhancements that include reestablishment of native plantings and erosion control measures will also be implemented to enhance these landmarks' unique and delicate natural surroundings.

I am confident these projects meet the selection criteria for the grant and they have my full support. If I can be of any assistance moving forward in the process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Ward".

John Ward  
State Representative

cc: Kathy Stevens  
14642 Nokay Lake Road  
Brainerd, MN 56401

