



Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

"... to preserve, protect and promote Minnesota's historic resources"

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August 10, 2010

Kristin Zschomler
MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Garrison Concourse TIGER Grant Application

Dear Ms. Zschomler:

On behalf of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM), I am writing to express support for MnDOT's proposal to obtain grant funding to complete restoration of the Garrison Concourse. PAM is a statewide, non-profit organization with a mission to preserve, promote, and protect Minnesota's historic resources.

In May 2010, the Garrison Concourse was included in PAM's annual 10 Most Endangered Historic Places list, due to its dilapidated physical condition resulting from years of deferred maintenance. PAM received numerous letters of support for this designation from residents and business owners from the Garrison area. The locals obviously recognize that this unique Depression-era stone overlook is a significant tourist attraction that provides a valuable sense of place for their community and generates local business development. It is a true Minnesota landmark that should be preserved for future travelers and visitors to the northern lakes country.

The proposed use of grant funding to rehabilitate two nearby historic bridges, #5265 and #3355, is also a worthy project that will preserve significant historic resources. PAM believes that MnDOT has been a national leader in identifying historically significant bridges throughout the state and helping to facilitate their rehabilitation and reuse. We commend MnDOT on this work and hope that the requested grant funds will help it to continue.

Please let me know if I can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Erin Hanafin Berg,
Field Representative