



August 13, 2010

Ray LaHood, Transportation Secretary

RE: Becker Avenue Redesign Project

I am writing in support on behalf of this whole volunteer organization who, 5 years ago, began the process of restoring and renovating a less than vibrant downtown.

We held public meetings about what people who live here want in their downtown.

One of the 4 initiatives that came to the top is developing of a trail to downtown that connects to our State trail system, developing a downtown with urban design values that work for all modes of transportation, creating a designated market street where people can gather for events in a true sense of community.

The funding for the Becker Avenue Redesign project was raised by this volunteer organization of over 200 volunteers. We interviewed and hired the consultants we believed could bring us a clear vision for Becker Avenue that would speak to all those interested in a vibrant downtown.

The plans you see are the result of this coordinated effort to get the best project for our downtown.

We hope you will feel the same. It would be a wonderful transformation for us and for the many jobs it would create here, with the economic development aspect of community events and tourism.

Sincerely,

Richard Engan, President

333 Litchfield Avenue SW--Suite One Willmar, MN 56201 320-222-2020

[www.willmardesigncenter.com](http://www.willmardesigncenter.com)