



February 24, 2017

To Members of the Transportation Finance Committee:

On behalf of the North TH 65 Corridor Coalition, we respectfully voice our support for H.F. 1496 as amended. This legislation directs the commissioner of transportation to study long needed congestion relief and crash elimination improvements on a portion of Trunk Highway 65 in Blaine and Ham Lake.

The North TH 65 Corridor Coalition is a coalition of Minnesota townships, cities and counties located along the North Trunk Highway 65 corridor who work in cooperation with transportation and transit agencies to identify and plan for transportation safety improvements along the corridor.

The north Trunk Highway 65 corridor is a primary transportation route through Anoka, Isanti and Kanabec Counties. The longer this corridor goes without substantive improvements, the greater safety issues continue to grow, congestion continues to expand, and frustration continues to grow among residents and businesses along the corridor. For the safety of everyone that drives or lives along Highway 65, we need to improve safety, provide safe access along the corridor, and make improvements that offer congestion and crash relief and support development in the corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we look forward to your continued support on this very important transportation issue.

Respectfully,

The 15 Member Communities of the North TH 65 Corridor Coalition

Terry Turnquist, Co-Chair  
Isanti County

Julie Braastad, Co-Chair  
Anoka County

Tom Ryan, Secretary  
City of Blaine

Beth Thorp, Treasurer  
City of Mora

John Erlandson, Dir. At-Large  
Cambridge Township

Heidi Steinmetz  
Kanabec County

Traci Leaf  
City of Braham

Kersten Conley  
City of Cambridge

Steve Voss  
City of East Bethel

Gary Kirkeide  
City of Ham Lake

Lisa Holcomb  
Arthur Township

David Beckstrom  
Athens Township

Craig Peterson  
Brunswick Township

Don Hansen  
Isanti Township

Ken Mattson  
Knife Lake Township