

BETTY MCCOLLUM
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

2426 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6631
FAX: (202) 225-1968

661 LASALLE STREET
SUITE 110
SAINT PAUL, MN 55114
(651) 224-9191
FAX: (651) 224-3056

mccollum.house.gov



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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Rice Street Reconstruction project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Ramsey County, located at 250 Courthouse, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55102. The funding would be used for improvements along a 2.2 mile stretch along CSAH49 (Rice Street) between Pennsylvania Avenue and Wheelock Parkway.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project is anticipated to reduce crashes by nearly 50 percent. Rice Street has one of the highest crash rates in the Twin Cities metro area. Current conditions include unsafe traffic patterns and speeds, dangerous and insufficient pedestrian facilities and crossings, and a lack of bicycle paths. Between 2019 and 2021, 229 crashes occurred on this segment, including 11 fatal and serious injury crashes. The proposed project will significantly improve safety in the community. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress