

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



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 10, 2024

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT  
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CO-CHAIR EMERITUS  
CONGRESSIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Randolph Avenue Bridge Reconstruction in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Saint Paul, located at 15 W Kellogg Blvd, Suite 390 Saint Paul, MN 55102. The funding would be used to reconstruct Randolph Avenue Bridge No. 7272 and the approach roadway between CSAH 37 (Shepard Road) and James Avenue. In addition to funding the removal of the existing bridge over Union Pacific Railroad, the project includes acquisition of right-of-way, design development, construction engineering and inspection, reconstruction of approach roadways, and construction of a replacement bridge that includes multi-modal elements for bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles including freight truck traffic.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because, despite extensive bridge maintenance and repair actions performed by the City, the bridge has shown rapid deterioration over the last several years requiring truck load restrictions. Bridge replacement will restore heavy truck weight capacities, improve freight access, and prevent significant disruption to the livelihood of business and residents who would be severely affected if the bridge needed to be abruptly taken out of service to address further degradation of bridge elements.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b).

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