

May 22, 2024

City of Grand Rapids
420 N. Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Mayor Connelly & Council,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the newly-formed Highway 169 Range Gateway Coalition. For decades, the City of Grand Rapids and its residents have been among the leading voices advocating for safety and efficient freight movement along the Highway 169 corridor in Northern Minnesota.

Our aim is to organize a collective voice to speak at the Capitol and mirror the success of other corridor coalitions in the state – many of which have worked with several generations of policymakers to ultimately see the long-awaited completion of their projects.

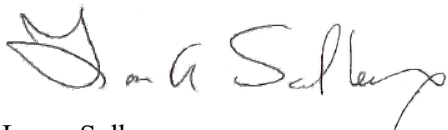
We have formed the Highway 169 Range Gateway Coalition to advance two primary outcomes. First, to advocate for the completion of the Cross Range Expressway project as a safe, reliable, four-lane highway connecting the entire Iron Range. Second, to advocate for safety improvements along the 169 corridor south of Grand Rapids that enhance the safe, efficient movement of goods and visitors to and from our region.

As an incorporator of the organization, I am pleased to invite you to join as a local government member. The organization has adopted an initial dues schedule under which cities with populations greater than 10,000 are asked to contribute \$5,000 as their annual dues to support our advocacy work. Per the Coalition bylaws, local governments will be granted membership upon passage of a resolution by their council, commission, or board stating their intent to join and payment of their membership dues. Included with this letter is a sample resolution the city may use to affirm their decision to join. Please send a copy of the passed resolution to Emma Nelson at ennelson@flaherty-hood.com or via fax to (651) 225-9088, after which you will be invoiced for membership dues.

In the coming months, we will continue to take the steps necessary to complete the organization's structure, including determining the makeup of the organization's Board of Directors. We would love to include the City of Grand Rapids in those discussions.

If you have any questions about the Highway 169 Range Gateway Coalition, please reach out to Emma Nelson at ennelson@flaherty-hood.com or (651) 259-1936. We look forward to welcoming the City of Grand Rapids as a member of our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loren Solberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Loren Solberg
Incorporator, Highway 169 Range Gateway Coalition