

CITY OF MINNETRISTA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Subject: MnDOT Roundabout Joint Letter

Prepared By: Jasper Kruggel, City Administrator

Meeting Date: May 4, 2025

Issue: Mayor Lisa Whalen would like to discuss a joint letter from herself, and the Mayor of St. Bonifacius related to MnDOT plans to install a roundabout at the intersection of Trunk Highway 7 (TH 7) and Wildwood Avenue.

Overview: Attached you will find a letter that has been drafted to MnDOT related to a request to move a planned roundabout at TH 7 and CR 92 to the intersection of TH 7 and Wildwood Avenue. Before signing, Mayor Whalen would like to discuss this letter with City Council and receive consensus to send.

Recommended City Council Action: Staff request City Council engage in a discussion about the letter to MnDOT and provide guidance to Mayor Whalen related to consensus to send the letter to MnDOT.

Mission Statement:

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.



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Mayor Lisa Whalen
City of Minnetrista
7701 County Road 110 West
Minnetrista, MN 55364

Mayor Tim Eiler
City of St. Bonifacius
8535 Kennedy Memorial Drive
St. Bonifacius, MN 55375

April 30, 2026

Ryan Wilson, West Area Manager – Hennepin County
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Request to Relocate Planned Roundabout on Trunk Highway 7 from CR 92 to Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We are writing jointly as the Mayors of the Cities of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius to respectfully request that MnDOT relocate the planned single-lane roundabout on Trunk Highway 7 from the intersection with County Road 92 (CR 92 / Main Street) to the intersection with Wildwood Avenue and Hunters Trail. The recent Hwy 7 Corridor Study (Hopkins to St. Bonifacius) recommended a series of roundabouts to improve safety and mobility, including a single-lane roundabout at TH 7 and CR 92, while designating only a $\frac{3}{4}$ intersection at Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail. While we fully support MnDOT's efforts to enhance the corridor and appreciate the extensive public engagement process, we believe relocating this particular roundabout would better serve the long-term transportation needs of our communities and the traveling public. Our request is based on the following key considerations:

1. Traffic Increases Due to Development in the Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail Area
Significant new residential and mixed-use development is planned and occurring in the Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail corridor, including large-scale projects in Minnetrista that are expected to generate substantial additional traffic volumes accessing TH 7. A full roundabout at Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail would more effectively accommodate this anticipated growth, improve traffic flow, and provide safer access for local residents, employees, and visitors.

2. Limiting Large-Vehicle Access to Residential Areas

Large vehicles tend to use Wildwood Avenue as a shortcut to gain access to CR 92. This creates a safety issue as these large trucks moving through a residential neighborhood with children is problematic. A roundabout at Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail and TH 7 could be designed in a manner that would reduce the likelihood of large vehicle through traffic.

3. Safety Concerns Related to Sight Distance

The intersection of Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail and TH 7 offers some sight distance challenges, and with future higher traffic volumes, we anticipate additional accidents. A roundabout at Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail and TH 7 would slow traffic and allow for proper ingress and egress into adjacent neighborhoods. The intersection of TH 7 and CR 92 already has a full-access stoplight system; utilizing that area along with the Wildwood Avenue/TH 7 intersection as a roundabout will enhance overall safety in the area.

We are confident that relocating the roundabout to TH 7 and Wildwood Avenue/Hunters Trail would align more closely with local land-use plans, future traffic patterns, and community priorities, while still advancing the overall safety and operational goals of the Hwy 7 improvements.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request in greater detail with you or your staff at your earliest convenience. Our cities remain committed to a collaborative partnership with MnDOT and stand ready to provide any additional local traffic data, development projections, or engineering insights that would assist in your review.

Thank you for your leadership and for MnDOT's continued investment in improving safety and mobility along the TH 7 corridor. We look forward to your positive consideration of this request.
Sincerely,

Lisa Whalen
Mayor, City of Minnetrista

Tim Eiler
Mayor, City of St. Bonifacius