



Executive Summary

Economic Development Authority

AGENDA ITEM-NEW BUSINESS: Hwy 12 Coalition Updates
PREPARED BY: Jacob Kolander, City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion and approval to use EDA Funds

The city has been working with the Highway 12 Coalition and more specifically the cities of Independence and Delano to push for funding to reconstruct the section of Highway 12 between County Road 90 and County Line Road. This section of Highway 12 is often referred to as the “corridor of death” due to the high number of fatalities that have occurred on this section. MnDOT is currently planning on essentially overlaying and preserving this section of highway in 2028 at an estimated cost of \$8M dollars. MnDOT has prepared three design alternatives (an improved two-lane section, a three-lane section and a four-lane section) to fully reconstruct this section. The Highway 12 Coalition has promoted the four-lane section as the preferred alternative; however, MnDOT has not officially selected an alternative to move forward with at this time. The total cost of the reconstruction is approximately \$40M dollars.

Rather than waiting for MnDOT to fund this project, the cities of Maple Plain, Independence and Delano have formed a sub-group to discuss and consider ways to obtain funding for the approximately \$32M gap and or push this project up on MnDOT’s “priority list”. The cities recently met to discuss the possibility of engaging a lobbyist to directly lobby for funds both at the state and federal levels on our behalf. The sub-group interviewed two notable lobbyist groups and has recommended that we move forward with one of the groups.

There are many benefits to the City of Maple Plain to continue to participate in the Highway 12 Coalition and also in the Maple Plain, Independence, Delano sub-group. Improvements to the specific section of highway between County Road 90 and County Line Road would help improve traffic flows into and out of Maple Plain. The improvements would also significantly increase safety along a corridor that many of our residents and business owners rely on. The enhancement to the noted section of Highway 12 would also help to advance future improvements to the Highway 12 corridor from County Road 29 to our eastern municipal boundary by highlighting that section as the only remaining section of Highway 12 in the metro

district that has not been fully updated. The noted improvements would also reinforce the geographic significance of Maple plain and would help to ensure that the alignment through our City is maintained in the future.

The cost of participating in the sub-group's recommendation to hire a lobbyist on behalf of Maple Plain, Independence and Delano is \$8,000 per year which represents 20% of the total cost (Total is \$40,000 per year). It is anticipated that the commitment would be for two-years, although the cities would only be initially entering into a one-year contract.

The city is asking the EDA to consider funding the \$8,000 cost due to the significance of Highway 12 in supporting, attracting and retaining business and residential development in and to Maple Plain.