



## Request for Council Action

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Tim Murray, City Administrator

**FROM:** Mark DuChene, City Engineer

**MEETING DATE:** February 9, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2021-033 Support for State Funding for Transportation Planning and Jurisdictional Realignment Analysis of a Trunk Highway Corridor Along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 Between Trunk Highway No. 3 and Trunk Highway No. 21 Including a New Interchange at the Intersection of CSAH 9 and Interstate 35

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### Background:

In an effort to promote economic development within the region and receive more of a voice at the State Legislature, in 2015 the City of Faribault joined with Rice County and the municipalities of Northfield, Lonsdale, and Dundas to create the Regional Economic Development Priorities (REDP). The concept between the municipalities was to keep the list of policies and projects that would provide benefit to the region. Within that document was support for the construction of an interchange to be located at CSAH 9/I-35.

In 2017, the City Council passed Resolution 2017-055 supporting legislation that would grant funds to MnDOT and Rice County for the interchange study. The bill was not passed into law and since then the City and County have been collaborating on ways to move forward with the project.

Staff had a chance to meet with State Senator John Jasinski on February 3, 2021 along with County and MnDOT representatives to discuss a bill that Senator Jasinski and Representative Daniels have again introduced for State funding for preliminary transportation planning work for an Interstate Access Request at CSAH 9/I-35 interchange. In anticipation of hearings and testimony at the capitol, the City Council is being asked to provide a supporting resolution for the draft bills to show the City's support and commitment to the proposed project. The final version of the bill is still being worked on so as to include the best project scope which will garner the most support from all parties involved.

**Recommendation:**

Approve Resolution 2021-033

**Attachments:**

- Resolution 2021-033

## **CITY OF FARIBAULT**

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### **RESOLUTION #2021-033**

#### **SUPPORT FOR STATE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND JURISDICTIONAL REALIGNMENT ANALYSIS OF A TRUNK HIGHWAY CORRIDOR ALONG COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY (CSAH) 9 BETWEEN TRUNK HIGHWAY NO. 3 AND TRUNK HIGHWAY NO. 21 INCLUDING A NEW INTERCHANGE AT THE INTERSECTION OF CSAH 9 AND INTERSTATE 35**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Faribault, Rice County and the State of Minnesota benefit from long-term transportation planning; and,

**WHEREAS**, Rice County has developed Regional Economic Development Priorities with its local governments including the City of Faribault; and,

**WHEREAS**, Economic Development is closely tied to efficient transportation systems; and,

**WHEREAS**, Interstate 35 (I-35) in Rice County carries over 30,000 vehicles per day through the Rice County; and,

**WHEREAS**, Rice County has developed a local transportation plan which includes County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 as a top priority for future Interstate Access; and,

**WHEREAS**, Rice County has spent millions of dollars upgrading CSAH 46 (Bagley Avenue) and CSAH 76 (Acorn Trail) to 10-ton road systems to support development along the I-35 Corridor and these roads also serve as official alternate routes for I-35; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Faribault has spent millions of dollars extending public utilities to serve the areas near CSAH 9 and I-35 which has led to a direct investment in private development which has already exceeded \$250 million and created and/or retained hundreds of jobs for the local and state economies; and,

**WHEREAS**, Rice County has collaborated with the City of Faribault, the State of Minnesota, local Townships and initiated discussions with the Federal Highway Administration to explore long term transportation planning concepts for the CSAH 9 corridor between Trunk Highway No. 3 and Trunk Highway No. 21.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,*** that the Faribault City Council supports the introduction of a bill to provide for State transportation funding for planning and a jurisdictional realignment analysis for Trunk Highway No. 3 along the Rice County State Aid Highway No. 9 corridor between Trunk Highway No. 3 and Trunk Highway No. 21 including a new interchange at CSAH 9 and I-35; and,

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,*** that the Faribault City Council also supports Rice County's position that a new interchange at I-35 and CSAH 9 is a top transportation priority in order to facilitate the growth and expansion of not only the City but the region to stimulate development and grow and retain jobs in the State of Minnesota.

**Date Adopted:** February 9, 2021

**Faribault City Council**

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**Kevin F. Voracek, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Timothy C. Murray, City Administrator**