

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 13, 2011

The Honorable Victor Mendez  
Federal Highway Administrator  
Southeast Federal Center Building  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Mendez:

We are writing to express our support for the retention and reconstruction of Southeast Main Avenue/CSAH 52 I-94 interchange ramps in Moorhead, Minnesota.

As you know in the 2008 SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act, Public Law 110-244, there was language stating the following:

(281) in item number 4365 by striking the project description and inserting “34th Street realignment and 34th Street and I-94 interchange, **including retention and reconstruction of the SE Main Avenue/CSAH 52 interchange ramps at I-94**, and other transportation improvements for the city of Moorhead, including the SE Main Avenue GSI and Moorhead Comprehensive Rail Safety Program.”

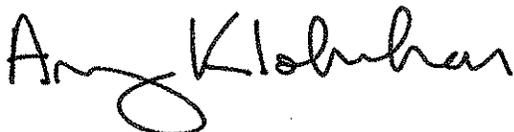
It is our understanding that the City of Moorhead is awaiting a final determination from Federal Highway Administration on whether or not they can rebuild these ramps. We feel that this language should speak for itself and that it is the Sense of Congress to have this ramp reconstructed.

Relying solely on the new 34th Avenue interchange has slowed down the flow of traffic, created barriers to their otherwise thriving commerce center, and has created safety issues. Business owners and other community leaders have said that these changes have created dangerous situations at intersections and railroad crossings due to increased semi and fuel truck traffic near residential neighborhoods.

While it is hard for the commercial and industrial firms located near the Southeast Main Avenue/CSAH 52 interchange to determine the exact loss of business, there are firms that deal directly with consumers who have reported a 25% - 30% decrease in sales since these road closures. In addition, there have been several reports of companies reconsidering locating in the industrial park due to the possibility of this interchange being closed permanently.

We encourage to you to not only abide by the law, but to support this stressed community during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senator



Al Franken  
U.S. Senator



Collin C. Peterson  
U.S. House of representatives