

JOHN KLINE  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 3, 2013

Mr. Charles Zelle  
Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)  
395 John Ireland Boulevard  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

Dear Commissioner Zelle:

Thank you for your commitment to improving Minnesota's transportation system. As your agency works to determine the best approach to update the intersection of Trunk Highway (TH) 52 and County Road (CR) 9, I offer the following input on behalf of my constituents in Goodhue County and others who live near or commute from Rochester to the Twin Cities.

TH 52 serves as a critical transportation link from the Twin Cities to Rochester, the home of the world-renowned Mayo Clinic. The highway has been a collaborative effort between Dakota, Goodhue, and Olmstead Counties to upgrade TH 52 to a freeway design and improve safety for travelers and commuters alike. I remain concerned about the current condition of the intersection at CR 9 as well as many intersections along this corridor.

In the short term, I understand your agency has preliminary plans to end through-traffic at the intersection of TH 52 and CR 9 and potentially require drivers to make a U-turn to get onto CR 9. While I appreciate MnDOT taking steps to make temporary safety enhancements at this intersection, I am concerned about any unintended consequences of requiring drivers to make a U-turn at this already vulnerable intersection. Finally, while I understand current budgetary constraints at all levels of government, however, I anticipate this critical intersection will be included in MnDOT's long range plans.

Thank you again for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you on transportation priorities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District and appreciate you keeping me apprised of any developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kline".

JOHN KLINE  
Member of Congress