

**City of Ramsey
Weekly Update
June 27, 2013**

1. **June 27, 2013**

Weekly Update

1.

Meeting Date: 06/27/2013

Information

Weekly Update

June 27, 2013

Attachments

Weekly Update

Form Review

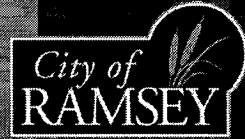
Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Started On: 06/27/2013 04:13 PM

Final Approval Date: 06/27/2013

WEEKLY UPDATE

Administrator's Report



June 27, 2013

Thursday, June 27, 2013

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. - The Draw Summer Event Series – Dirt Road Prophets. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a Flyer for the Draw Summer Event Series.*

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

Please Note: There are no meeting scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of the Month.

Thursday, July 4, 2013

Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day

(Happy 4th of July!)

Preview of Next Week

July Planning Commission Rescheduled. The Regular Planning Commission dates falls on July 4, 2013, a date in which City offices are closed in observance of a holiday. The July Planning Commission has been re-scheduled to July 18, 2013.

Council Update

Absentee Voting Begins. In-person absentee voting for the July 30 Special Election begins on Friday, June 28. Booths have been set up at City Hall to accommodate persons unable to vote in person on the 30th. Residents of Ward 1 will be able to vote absentee from June 28 through July 29, Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:30.

The Adult Bookstore. The Adult Book Store at 6710 Highway 10 NW was officially purchased by the City on Thursday, June 27. City crews will remove the business signage this week and we are soliciting quotes for demolition. The former owner will be doing additional clean-up of the site through next Monday.

Community Development/Development Services

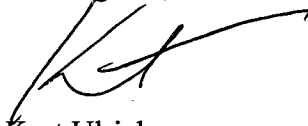
- The Community Development Department has provided an update to current development projects and draft policies as part of the Development Update. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the Development Update.*

Save the Date:

- **Farmer Market.** The Ramsey Farmers Market will begin Mid-July and continue throughout the summer. This event will be held on Thursdays in conjunction with The Draw Summer Event Series.

- **Anoka County Library on the Go** is scheduled to have its ribbon-cutting & Open House on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 prior to the Council meeting. The facility is located in the Mississippi River conference room on the first floor of City Hall. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a Flyer for the Anoka County Library on the Go Grand Opening.*
- **2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser.** Saturday, August 17, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Super Bowl, 6720 Riverdale Drive NW, Ramsey. All proceeds go to the Ramsey Police Explorer POST 3819. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Kristin Camacho, 763-576-4301 or kcamacho@ci.ramsey.mn.us. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a Flyer for the 2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser.*

Best regards,



Kurt Ulrich
City Administrator

Attachments: Flyer for The Draw Summer Event Series
Development Update
Flyer for the Anoka County Library on the Go Grand Opening
Flyer for the 2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser
Letter from Congressman Richard Nolan regarding the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program



THE DRAW

SUMMER EVENT SERIES

6:30 – 8:00 PM



JUNE 27: DIRT ROAD PROPHETS



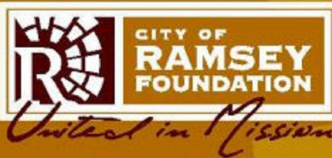
- 6:30-8:00 PM
- PRESENTED BY:
TROTT BROOK FINANCIAL
AND BOLTON & MENK
RAMSEY OFFICE

JULY 11: STIMULUS PACKAGE



- 6:30-8:00 PM
- PRESENTED BY:
VILLAGE BANK
- PRESENTED BY:
METRO DENTALCARE

**Metro
Dentalcare**



THESE EVENTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

**FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE BEFORE AND DURING THE EVENT!**



JUNE 27: DIRT ROAD PROPHETS

The Dirt Road Prophets specialize in country from the golden era, they will mix in top 40 country songs, and a little rock. These guys redefine what it is to be a band. Everybody Plays, Everybody Sings, Everybody Wins. Dirt Road Prophets is a three piece band made up of some of the finest and most seasoned musicians and vocalists in the business.

WINDS, WAVES N WAKES – EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

Wind, Waves N Wakes showcases wind, gas and electric powered boats that can reach speeds in excess of 60 mph. Some boats are scaled replicas of real boats.

Event Sponsor, Trott Brook Financial and Bolton & Menk Ramsey Office

Trott Brook Financial is an Independent Financial Advisory firm based in Ramsey right here in the COR. Jim Steffen, the President, founded the company along with his wife, Lisa, in 2002. Trott Brook provides financial planning and investment management services to individuals and business owners.

JULY 11: \$STIMULUS\$ PACKAGE

No genre is off limits for SP, putting an invigorating spin on all the hits- from classic rock to rockin' country & everything in between. SP has a proven track record as a go-to band, playing casinos, weddings, corporate, clubs & festivals in the five state area. SP's talent, appeal & versatility can adapt to fit the most intimate or party rocking' crowd of any age!

Event Sponsor, Village Bank

Named the City of Ramsey's 2010 Business of the Year, Village Bank is an active participant in community events and groups.

Event Sponsor, Metro Dentalcare

Metro Dentalcare is located at 7600 Sunwood Drive next to the Ramsey Municipal Center. Dr. Melinda Sundquist and Dr. Aliya Sullivan are thrilled to bring more smiles to Ramsey! Metro Dentalcare will be open Monday through Friday and one Saturday a month. To arrange a time, visit our website www.metro-dentalcare.com or contact one of our patient service representatives at 763-203-6040.

www.ci.ramsey.mn.us/thedraw-summerevent
The Draw - 7401 E Ramsey Parkway, Ramsey, MN 55303



City of Ramsey Development Update

June 27, 2013

Report Background

The following report is updated weekly.

Seasons of Ramsey [Updated]

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgldhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Seasons of Ramsey is a 50 unit rental townhome development located in the Town Center Gardens plat at the northeast intersection of Bunker Lake Boulevard and Town Center Drive (also known as Center Street). The Planning Commission reviewed the Sketch Plan of the Plat on December 6, 2012. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Plat and reviewed the Site Plan on January 31, 2013. The City Council approved the Preliminary Plat, Final Plat, Site Plan, and associated requests of February 12, 2013. The Developer has submitted an Application for Building Permit.

The Developer was able to successfully close on the Property on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The Developer anticipates to complete the entire project by December 31, 2013. The City is awaiting a request from the contractor to issue the Building Permit. Leasing information is available at www.essenceproperties.com, 320-255-9910, or info@essenceproperties.com.

Work has commenced and continues on the project. Staff will provide updates as needed.

The City Council approved a request to amend exterior materials on June 11, 2013, consistent with acceptable exterior materials per Zoning Code.

Building Permits have been issued for twenty-eight (28) of the fifty (50) units as well as the community building. Framing and wall section construction has begun on multiple buildings.

Project Photos:



Photo taken on June 27, 2013 from Bunker Lake Boulevard looking west. [Updated June 27, 2013]

McDonalds (Sunwood Retail in The COR) [No Update]

Primary Reviewer: Chris Anderson (canderson@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9905)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review for McDonalds on January 3, 2013. The site is located along the re-aligned Sunwood Drive at Armstrong Boulevard, located just north of Northstar Marketplace.

The City Council approved the site plan and associated requests on January 22, 2013. The project is now eligible to submit a Building Permit. The City has received an Application for Building Permit.

The HRA approved Plans and Specifications and authorized Staff to advertise for bids for the Stage I Improvements as directed by the HRA for the May 14, 2013 HRA meeting. Initial Building Permit Plan Review has been completed, subject to revisions as requested by the City's Technical Review Staff. Staff also continues work with McDonald's to complete pre-development activities and review the plan sheets submitted for Building Permit review.

The Ramsey Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) accepted bids and awarded a contract to construct the Stage I (common) Improvements for the three (3) lots within the COR TWO/Sunwood Retail area. The HRA also approved an extension to the Real Estate Contract to allow the Stage I Improvements to be completed and the due-diligence process to be completed. Construction is anticipated to begin on the facility itself this fall (2012). [Updated June 13, 2013]

Northgate Performing Arts Center [Updated]

Primary Reviewer: Consulting Planner (Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit for Northgate Performing Arts Center located at 7295 Sunwood Drive NW (northeast intersection of Sunwood Drive and Peridot Street NW on October 4, 2012. The City Council approved the request on October 23, 2012.

Construction has officially commenced on the facility. The City has approved a temporary closure of one (1) block on Peridot Street for June 18, 2013 to June 21, 2013 in order to set building panels along Peridot Street. The closure would only be from Sunwood Drive north to 145th Avenue (one [1] block). The closure will also impact traffic patterns for PACT Charter School, which is currently not in regular session. The detour would use 145th Avenue west to Peridot Street, then south to Sunwood Drive. The Contractor will be forwarding Staff a detour plan/map. A sketch provided by the Contractor is shown below. When a more detailed map is provided, Staff will ensure proper communication with the City Council and adjacent property owners. *Below is an updated road closure map.*

Below are recent project photos. [Updated June 27, 2013]



Photo taken June 27, 2013 at Sunwood Drive and Peridot Street looking north east.



Photo taken June 20, 2013 at Sunwood Drive and Peridot Street looking north west.

Super America (Sunwood Retail in The COR) [No Update]

Primary Reviewer: Chris Anderson (canderson@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9905)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review for Super America located in the Sunwood Retail Center of The COR, along the realigned Sunwood Drive on October 4, 2012. The City Council approved the request on October 16, 2012.

The City is awaiting said submittal of the Building Permit. [Updated March 14, 2013]

North Commons (COR THREE) *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Minor Plat Review of COR THREE, a seventeen (17) lot single-family development located north of Bunker Lake Boulevard in The COR on June 19, 2012. The City Council approved the request on July 10, 2012.

Preliminary grading and utility work commenced at the end of 2012. The Plat will need to be recorded prior to any Building Permit issuance.

On May 28, 2013, the HRA amended the scope of the project to focus on four (4) of the seventeen (17) lots that are located abutting North Commons (park). The remaining thirteen (13) lots that were approved along Bunker Lake Boulevard could be re-evaluated in the future as market conditions improve.

The Ramsey Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) reviewed a potential purchase offer on all or portions of the four (4) lots along the park. The HRA will be reviewing current market conditions and seeking additional qualified offers on these lots. A more detailed work plan will be provided soon. [Updated June 13, 2013]

Stoney River *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed the request for Site Plan Review of Stoney River, a 72 unit assisted living and memory care development at the northwest intersection of Nowthen Boulevard and Saint Francis Boulevard in August, 2011. The site is adjacent to the Lord of Life Lutheran Church Campus. The City Council approved the request in August, 2011.

The City has reviewed the Building Permit, and is awaiting final revisions as requested. According to Anoka County Property Records, the site is now owned by First Phoenix Ramsey, LLC. The Developer has stated they anticipate to close on the financing package sometime on in mid-April and has now agreed to submit the required financial surety in the form of the City's standard Letter of Credit.

Staff did receive the required Plumbing Plan Review from the State of Minnesota. Staff is still awaiting revised plan sheets, which are assumed to be under development to complete the Building Permit Review. Staff is also awaiting the required Letter of Credit.

Staff did receive communication from the Developer's Managing Director for Minnesota that the project was awarded financing and expects to close on said financing within the next month. The Developer anticipates construction to begin mid-to-late summer. Staff is working on final review of the Building Permit with this most recent communication. [Updated June 13, 2013]

Residence at The COR **[Updated]**

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed the request for Site Plan Review of Residence at The COR, a 230 unit apartment development along Sunwood Drive next to the Ramsey Municipal Center in 2011. The City Council approved the request in November, 2011. The project is currently under construction. The Developer anticipates the opening of a leasing office on a temporary basis in the coming weeks. The Developer desires to open a portion of the project (approximately 50 units) in early May, at which time an existing unit will take the place as the leasing office until the actual leasing/management office is complete. For more information, visit www.corapts.com or call 763-208-5931.

A temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued on approximately 50 units. The Developer anticipates opening the remainder in two (2) phases, with Phase II desired opening in late June.

The dental office occupying the 3,000 square foot retail space is now open. Below are recent project photos. [Updated June 27, 2013]



Photo taken June 27, 2013 along Sunwood Drive at the Municipal Center looking west.



Photo taken the Municipal Center Plaza in front of the retail space.

Housing Assistance Policy [Updated]

Primary Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The City Council has directed Staff to complete a Housing Assistance Policy. The intent of the policy is to provide a framework for which to review requests for housing assistance and provide a mechanism to review proposals for compatibility with the City's housing goals. The Policy was forwarded to the Planning Commission for development. The Planning Commission has established an ad-hoc sub-committee to assist in the development of the policy.

The Housing Sub-Committee has met on two (2) occasions to date. Current accomplishments include completion of an Interim Policy Statement (until the final policy is adopted), agreement on the framework of the policy, and establishment of housing-type priorities. All drafts must still be approved by the City Council.

Staff provided an update to the City Council on June 11, 2013, and received positive feedback on direction to continue along the current path for completion.

To date, the sub-committee has completed an initial review of demographic data, established an Interim Policy Statement, and established a framework of the proposed policy (product type priorities, minimum thresholds, and scoring/ranking matrix). The ad-hoc sub-committee met on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 and finished a draft of the Minimum Thresholds. The Minimum Thresholds are based on the Housing Chapter Goals and Implementation Strategies of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The final step is to complete a draft of the Scoring/Ranking Matrix. This is anticipated to be completed over two (2) to three (3) sub-committee meetings. At that point, a full draft would be reviewed by Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council. [Updated June 27, 2013]

167th Avenue Retail Node [No Update]

Primary Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission and EDA have both discussed the status of the retail node located at the intersection of 167th Avenue and Saint Francis Boulevard (TH 47). The City had previously been asked to review two (2) potential users at 6001 167th Ave NW (indoor shooting range and clothing recycling warehouse distribution. Per EDA discussion, Staff will be setting up stakeholder meetings to discuss a comprehensive approach with all property owners of the node in regards to future land uses as well as mechanisms to achieve desired future land uses. A more detailed summary will be provided following the outcomes of these stakeholder meetings.

Staff has scheduled a Stakeholder/Property Owner Meeting with owners of commercial/retail property in the area for Wednesday, June 5, 2013. The intent of the meeting is to outline options (land use and economic development related) for Property Owners and discuss a unified vision for the future of the current retail node. Staff will provide an update to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council following the Stakeholder Meeting.

Staff held a Stakeholder Meeting on June 5, 2013. Staff will forward feedback from said meeting in the near future. [Updated June 6, 2013]

Former Municipal Center Future Land Uses *[No Update]*

Primary Contact: Patrick Brama (pbrama@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9903)

In 2006, the City relocated the Ramsey Municipal Center from 15153 Nowthen Blvd NW to 7550 Sunwood Dr NW. The former location still operates as Fire Station #2. The City has been exploring options for future use of this campus and relocation of Fire Station #2. To assist in the analysis of acceptable land uses for this campus for future development, an Open House has been scheduled for Thursday, April 18th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers (7550 Sunwood Dr NW). The Open House will explore options for single-family and data center users. Multiple smaller group stations, with full size maps and ability for written comments, will be available from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. A brief presentation will be presented, with ability for large group comment, from 7:00 to 7:30 (or until comments are complete). Small group stations will re-convene following the presentation and comment period.

The Open House was held as scheduled despite weather concerns. Staff continues to compile results and comments from that Open House and presented preliminary findings to the City Council on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. Based on the results of that open house, Staff will presenting the detailed results to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council in May prior to taking any further steps. It is at this stage that Staff will discuss future direction, if any direction is desired at this time.

Staff has updated the Planning Commission (5/2/13) and the EDA (5/16/13) on the status of the project.

Staff presented a case to discuss possible next steps at the June 11, 2013 City Council Meeting. The City Council directed Staff to re-engage the surrounding public through a collaborative process utilizing a task force to continue to review options for the site.

Staff met to discuss possible alternatives for the new public process, and anticipates bringing forward alternatives for consideration to the July 9, 2013 City Council Meeting. [Updated June 20, 2013]

Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) Update for The COR *[No Update]*

In 2003, an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) was prepared for the development formerly known as Ramsey Town Center, now known as The COR. The AUAR is an environmental review process that is an alternative to the standard, required environmental review for certain sized project. This alternative is a proactive, rather than individual reactive review, of the development as a whole as opposed to review with each individual project.

Minnesota Rules guiding the length of time this review is valid requires that the City update this document if it is to be used for current environmental review purposes. In addition, the preferred development alternative has changed from the original preparation.

On May 28, 2013, the City Council 'ordered' the AUAR, which sent the completed update for an official review process. The comment period ended on June 12, 2013. Staff received comments from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Staff will now complete the final draft, including submitted comments, and distribute for final review. It is anticipated that the City Council will consider adopting the final document on July 9, 2013.

On June 19, 2013, the City also received advisory comments from the Metropolitan Council. These comments will also be incorporated into the final document, still tentatively scheduled for City Council consideration on July 9, 2013. [Updated June 20, 2013].

Potential Sign Overlay District for Armstrong Boulevard Interchange Area *[No Update]*

As part of the public review process for the Armstrong Interchange, several comments from commercial (retail) property owners discussed concern with loss of visibility to their business due to the height of the interchange. It was discussed as a potential solution to increase the allowable height for properties surrounding the interchange. One property owner has requested that the City consider implementing a zoning solution as soon as possible, to ensure when construction does begin, a tool is already in place to allow additional height.

The Planning Commission briefly discussed the request to begin a process on June 6, 2013, and directed Staff to begin the process of establishing an Overlay District related to signs adjacent to the Armstrong Boulevard Interchange. [Updated June 13, 2013]

June Planning Commission **[Updated]**

The following cases were reviewed by the June Planning Commission (details are included in the technical reports to the Planning Commission [www.cityoframsey.com/agendas-minutes]):

1. Consider Request for Site Plan Review and Variance to Front (Side-Corner) Yard Setback for an Expansion Located at 6815 McKinley St NW; Case of Cullinan Rigging *[Recommended for approval. Variance was approved. City Council to consider final approval on June 25, 2013]*
2. Consider Request for Conditional Use Permit to Allow Two (2) Horses on 2.5 Acres Located at 8010 167th Ln NW; Case of Linda Eidem *[Recommended for approval. The Planning Commission would like to review rates and fees for Conditional Use Permits and consider a staggered fee structure depending on application type. Staff will prepare a future topic report for discussion.]*
3. Consider Request for Conditional Use Permit for Motor Vehicle Sales 7820 Riverdale Dr NW; Case of Bethel Properties *[Recommended for approval]*
4. Consider Request for Conditional use Permit for Oversizing of Accessory Structure Size; Case of Mike and Diane Dahlberg *[Recommended for approval]*

All cases noted above were approved by the City Council on June 25, 2013. [Updated June 27, 2013]

July Planning Commission **[Updated]**

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission for July would normally be July 4, 2013. As City Offices are closed that day, the meeting has been **officially** re-scheduled for July 18, 2013. Cases tentatively include the following:

1. Consider Request for Sketch Plan Review of Oakwood Acres; Case of Oakwood Land Development
 - a. The request is to create three (3) new buildable lots along the re-aligned 167th Avenue, west of Nowthen Boulevard.
2. Consider Request for Site Plan Review for Expansion of Diamond Graphics Facility Located at 14350 Azurite St NW; Case of Diamond Graphics, Inc.
3. Consider Ordinance to Amend Official Zoning Map to Establish Sign Overlay District Adjacent to Intersection of U.S. Highway 10 and Armstrong Boulevard to Address Sign Height for Future Interchange Area; Case of the City of Ramsey

Building Permit Update/New Housing Information **[Updated]**

Since January 1, 2013, the City has approved Building Permits for forty-three (47) new detached, single-family units and fifty-two (52) new attached, single-family units for a total of ninety-five (99) new housing units for 2013 through June 27, 2013. This exceeds the base trend for the past several years, including 2012. The City has issued a total of 904 Building Permits year to date. [Updated June 27, 2013]

Detailed Report Information

For more information regarding the project listed above, please contact the Tim Gladhill at 763-576-4308 or visit www.cityoframsey.com/planning-division.



Tim Gladhill, Development Services Manager

Anoka County Library *on the Go*

Please join us on
Tuesday, July 9th from 5 - 7 pm
For a special Grand Opening celebration
ceremony for Anoka County's *Library on the Go*.
Go.

This new service is offered in
On the 1st floor of the *Ramsey Municipal Center*.
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

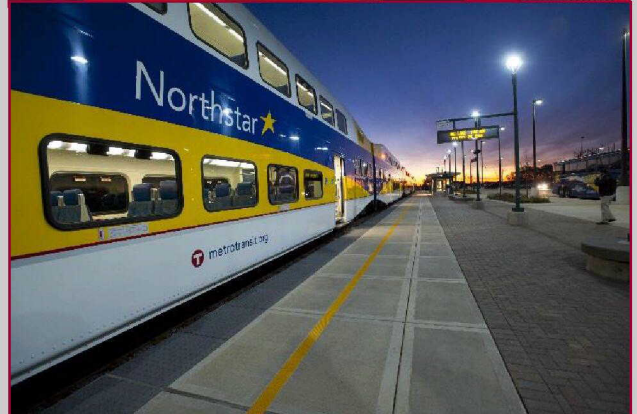
Anoka County Library staff will be present on
Tuesday evening to offer instructions and
assistance on:

- Obtaining a book from the **book vending machine** using the library card
- Downloading an e-book using the 3M Cloud app & **Discovery Station**
- Ordering and retrieving library materials using the new **book lockers**.

Come apply for a Library card!

A library book return drop box will also be
available.

Anoka County *Library on the Go* is supported by a
partnership between the City of Ramsey and the
County Library. Purchases were funded by a federal
grant from the Institute of Museum and Library
Services. The YMCA in Andover is also offering
Library on the Go services through this grant.



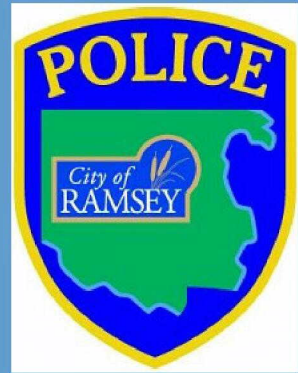
The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning, in conjunction with State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education, which administers federal LSTA grants supports the LSTA project sponsored by Anoka County Library and its partners.

2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser!

**Saturday 8/17/2013
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Super Bowl
6720 Riverdale Dr. NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

All proceeds go to the
Ramsey Police Explorer POST 3819



Come join us for 2 hours of unlimited bowling + shoes for only \$15.00 per ticket!

Each ticket will also get you 1 entry into our raffle for fun prizes! We will be selling \$1.00 raffle tickets the day of the event!

For more information or to purchase your bowling ticket please contact:

Kristin Camacho
763-576-4304

Kcamacho@ci.ramsey.mn.us



RICHARD M. NOLAN
8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

AVIATION
HIGHWAYS & TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDING AND
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CONSERVATION, ENERGY, AND FORESTRY
LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CREDIT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

May 29, 2013

2447 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6211

NOLAN.HOUSE.GOV

DULUTH OFFICE

11 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, SUITE 125
DULUTH, MN 55802
PHONE: (218) 464-5095
FAX: (218) 464-5098

BRAINERD OFFICE

501 LAUREL STREET
BRainerd, MN 56401
PHONE: (218) 454-4078
FAX: (218) 454-4096

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

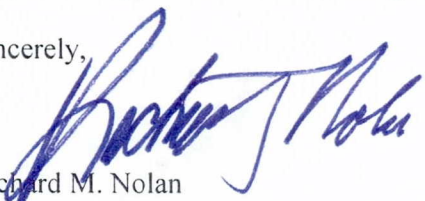
I am pleased to offer you this letter of support in regard to Anoka County's grant application for the TIGER Discretionary Grant program. Replacing the existing at-grade intersection at US 10 and Anoka County 83 (Armstrong Boulevard) with an interchange and an overpass of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad will improve quality of life, safety, mobility and support existing and future economic growth and development in Anoka County and the City of Ramsey. Anoka County proposes to leverage federal funds with a 71.4% match from local, regional, and state resources.

Eliminating the traffic signal and at-grade crossing of the BNSF Railroad will incorporate and integrate multiple modes of transportation, making the entire transportation network safer and more efficient. Upon completion of the project, bus, rail transit, passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists will all have easier and safer access to the Northstar Commuter Rail Station, employment nodes, medical clinics (including the Veterans' Clinic), schools, homes and service centers located within the interchange influence area.

The proposed project will also enhance quality of life by enabling emergency responders to more efficiently cross or access US 10 if a train is present. With the current design, a train blocking the track crossing prohibits emergency vehicles from getting to a crash scene or from getting to Mercy Hospital. Responders have to go through city streets to the City of Anoka before they can cross the railroad tracks without having to wait for the train. The delay associated with waiting for the train or having to drive to the City of Anoka can literally cost someone their life.

Improving safety and mobility on this corridor is one of my highest priorities. The proposed project will go a long way in supporting those goals and encouraging economic development. I fully support the application and encourage your consideration of the project.

Sincerely,


Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

CC: Sarah Strommen, Ramsey Mayor
Kurt Ulrich, Ramsey Administrator

Douglas W. Fischer, County Engineer
Matt Look, County Commissioner District 1
Carolyn Braun, Planning Director
Tim Cruikshank, City Manager
John Brimsek
Paul Miller, PLC
Jim Deal
Mike Zagami