



CITY of FORT DODGE

Terry J. Lutz, Mayor
David R. Fierke, City Manager

MAYOR'S OFFICE

April 21, 2009

This letter is written in support of the City of Fort Dodge's request to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for assistance with our Corridor Project. The Corridor Project is an initiative that seeks to upgrade the main corridor through our town by making this stretch of road safer and more aesthetically pleasing in an attempt to attract economic development. This corridor, also known as 5th Avenue South, comprises only 1% of the city streets in Fort Dodge, but is responsible for 10% of all crashes city-wide. Each year this dangerous stretch of road costs motorists in excess of \$1.3 million dollars in property damage, or roughly an average of \$4,100 per crash.

The Corridor Project is an initiative of the seven-member Fort Dodge City Council. As such, the entire Corridor Redevelopment Project has been the subject of many public meetings where citizens have gathered to give their input on the project. The project's consultant, the Howard R. Green Company of Des Moines, Iowa, has entertained several of our citizen's suggestions throughout the process. As a result, a multi-phase approach has been developed and the City of Fort Dodge will implement several projects along 5th Avenue South to improve safety, including: installing crosswalks, updating traffic signals, and the establishment of pedestrian walkways. We will also begin to underground utility lines along the corridor.

The total estimated cost for Phase II of this project is \$5 million. The project will be paid for through a mix of federal, local, and private funds, including: \$1 million in federal funds (if awarded), \$2 million in undergrounding assessment fees collected from local utility users through Mid-American Energy, and \$2 million collected through a recently approved local-option sales tax.

Should you have any questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fierke", is written over a horizontal line.

David Fierke
City Manager