



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 2, 2007

The Honorable Mayor R.T. Rybak  
The Honorable Council President Barb Johnson  
City Hall  
350 South 5th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Mayor Rybak and Council President Johnson:

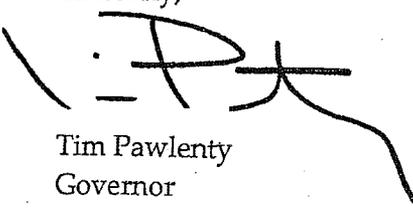
Just over 60 days ago, Minnesota experienced a horrific tragedy with the loss of lives and the Interstate 35W Bridge. Minnesota's spirit of cooperation, resilience, and compassion has been demonstrated often since that tragedy.

The Minneapolis City Council will soon consider municipal consent for the new bridge. The Council's deliberations are part of an enormous effort by state and city officials working together in good faith and under challenging circumstances. The resulting proposal reflects good work and it is in the best interest of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis. It is my sincere hope that you will grant municipal consent for the rebuilding project.

As part of your discussions, some Council members have asked for clarifications. Specifically, state funds will be used to ensure the bridge will be built LRT-ready. Likewise, the measures outlined in the attached September 25, 2007, letter from Transportation Commissioner Carol Molnau will be incorporated into the project. Further, we support the shared study and possible joint funding (State, County and City) of Washington Avenue congestion relief and examining the use of HOV, HOT, and BRT along the 35W corridor through the Metropolitan Council's 2030 Regional Development Framework effort.

The constructive relationship between the state and City of Minneapolis in response to the bridge collapse is appreciated, and is important to the citizens we serve. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

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