

ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Board of Directors

Resolution

*Resolution of Support for the St. Louis County CSAH 100 Railroad Crossing Grade Separation
Project Funding Application to the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program*

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §462.383, subdivision 2, and 462.39, subdivision 3, authorizes Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical and governmental concerns and to develop comprehensive plans for local units of government; and

WHEREAS, The existing railroad crossing (USDOT #252305T) on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 100 (Main Street), located in Aurora, Minnesota, intersects a Canadian National Railway track that carries an estimated 12 trains per day with a traffic volume on CSAH 100 (Main Street) of approximately 4,500 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, CSAH 100 is a route of regional significance that serves the cities of Aurora and Hoyt Lakes in the eastern Iron Range of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, If the railroad crossing on CSAH 100 (Main Street) was closed, the detour would be greater than 18 miles which includes gravel surfaced roads; and

WHEREAS, The Essentia Health – Northern Pines Hospital and Clinic, which includes emergency room services, is located on the south side of the railroad crossing while the Aurora Fire Hall is located on the north side of the railroad crossing; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Railroad Crossing Safety Plan recommends construction of a bridge overpass on CSAH 100 (Main Street) over the railroad tracks; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County completed the CSAH 100 Corridor Study in 2024 that developed a new corridor layout for CSAH 100 (3rd Avenue North/Main Street) through the City of Aurora which included a feasibility study that shows a bridge overpass is feasible and cost effective; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County, in cooperation with the City of Aurora, is leading a project in 2026 to reconstruct the CSAH 100 corridor beginning at a point 0.20 mile east of MNTH 135 and ending at 1st Avenue North for a total length of 1.08 miles which will implement the recommendations from the CSAH 100 Corridor Study; and

WHEREAS, A bridge overpass would ensure that CSAH 100 is a reliable transportation corridor and would improve mobility for freight, emergency vehicles, recreational vehicles (ATVs and snowmobiles), bicyclists and pedestrians; and

May 21, 2026

WHEREAS, A bridge overpass would improve traffic safety by eliminating a railroad crossing which supports the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths vision; and

WHEREAS, A bridge overpass would eliminate the risk of a railroad crossing closure and the impact on the regional transportation system due to the long detour route; and

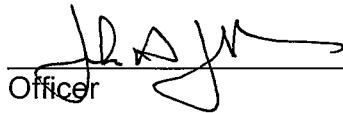
WHEREAS, The bridge deck will include a 10-ft shared-use path and a 14-ft protected lane for ATVs and snowmobiles which together will support the planned extension of the Mesabi Trail from Aurora to Hoyt Lakes and movement of ATVs and snowmobiles throughout the eastern Iron Range.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission Board of Directors supports St. Louis County's funding application to the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program for the CSAH 100 Railroad Crossing Grade Separation Project located in in Aurora, Minnesota.

ATTEST:


Chair


Executive Director


Officer

May 21, 2026
Date