

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** City Administrator Ron Johnson

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Resolution in Support of Dedicated State Funding for City Streets

**DATE:** March 30, 2016

### **BACKGROUND**

MnDOT Commissioner Zelle, in an open letter received by the League of MN Cities on March 17, asks city officials to sign an online Transportation Funding Solution Support Statement calling for the 2016 Legislature to pass a transportation finance bill that provides “dedicated, predictable, and sustainable” funding.

The League is encouraging all member cities to pass resolutions during this legislative session because existing funding mechanisms have limited applications, leaving cities under-equipped to address growing needs. The League’s Board of Directors passed a similar resolution on February 19 demonstrating support for new dedicated state funding for city streets.

### **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Adopt the attached resolution supporting dedicated state funding for city streets.

Attachment(s): Resolution

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS  
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2193**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEDICATED STATE FUNDING FOR CITY  
STREETS**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota contains over 141,000 miles of roadway, and over 19,000 miles—or 13 percent—are owned and maintained by Minnesota’s 853 cities; and

**WHEREAS**, over 80 percent of municipal streets are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the more than 700 Minnesota cities with populations below 5,000 are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, city streets are a separate but integral piece of the network of roads supporting movement of people and goods; and

**WHEREAS**, existing funding mechanisms, such as Municipal State Aid (MSA), property taxes and special assessments, have limited applications, leaving cities under-equipped to address growing needs; and

**WHEREAS**, city cost participation in state and county highway projects diverts resources from city-owned streets; and

**WHEREAS**, maintenance costs increase as road systems age, and no city—large or small—is spending enough on roadway capital improvements to maintain a 50-year lifecycle; and

**WHEREAS**, for every one dollar spent on maintenance, a road authority—and therefore taxpayers—save seven dollars in repairs; and

**WHEREAS**, cities need greater resources, including an additional dedicated state funding source for transportation, and flexible policies in order to meet growing demands for street improvements and maintenance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CANNON FALLS** that the City of Cannon Falls supports an omnibus transportation funding bill that provides additional dedicated state funding for city streets including funding that can be used for non-MSA city street maintenance, construction and reconstruction.

**ADOPTED** by the Council this 4th day of April, 2016.

CITY OF CANNON FALLS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator