

From: Straka, Joshua
Sent: Mon, 7 Apr 2025 15:55:39 +0000
To: Matesic, Hannah (OST)
Cc: FHWA.Congress; OST Congressional Affairs; Melody, Erin
Subject: RE: Background for Robert Street RAISE grant inquiry

You don't often get email from joshua.straka@mail.house.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you, Hannah!

From: Matesic, Hannah (OST) <hannah.matesic@dot.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Straka, Joshua <Joshua.Straka@mail.house.gov>
Cc: FHWA.Congress <FHWA.Congress@dot.gov>; OST Congressional Affairs <OSTCongressionalAffairs@dot.gov>
Subject: RE: Background for Robert Street RAISE grant inquiry

Hi Joshua – I'm looping in my folks with FHWA to provide you a status.

Thanks!
Hannah

From: Straka, Joshua <Joshua.Straka@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:47 AM
To: Matesic, Hannah (OST) <hannah.matesic@dot.gov>
Subject: FW: Background for Robert Street RAISE grant inquiry

You don't often get email from joshua.straka@mail.house.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Matesic,
This email follows up my voicemail this morning. I am contacting you to see if you can provide a status update for the RAISE grant referenced in the attached one-pager and in the background below.

Background:

- MnDOT is concerned about the \$25 million RAISE grant for Robert Street Complete Streets and Viaduct Reconstruction. The total project cost to be \$43.4 million.
- This grant was awarded on January 6, 2025 as a FY24 RAISE grant.

- We believe this project has been caught up in a DOT memo to halt all projects without signed grant agreements for further review.
- The project will reconstruct approximately 1.5 miles of State highway 3. The current road has deteriorating pavement, some over 100 years old, a decaying viaduct, and many ADA violations. Existing funds only cover pavement maintenance and ADA fixes, not the multimodal improvements, viaduct upgrades or complete pavement reconstruction that are needed. More funding from the RAISE program would allow these improvements as well as enable additional partnership opportunities, especially with the City of Saint Paul, that would elect to replace old sanitary and water systems from the late 1800s; and Metro Transit to enhance connections to the planned G Line BRT.
- Normally, MnDOT would expect an initial meeting with the MN FHWA division office to take place 1-2 months after award to set the terms of the grant, but that has yet to happen. Our MN FHWA division office has seen some reduction in force lately and are telling MnDOT that decisions about grants that would normally be made in that division office are being centralized above their heads in DC.

Please contact me if you can provide further details: (b)(6) Thank you advance for your assistance with this matter.

Best,
Josh



Joshua Straka

Chief of Staff

Office of Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04)

Joshua.straka@mail.house.gov

2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (b)(6)
Fax: (202) 225-1968

661 LaSalle Street, Suite 110
St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: (b)(6)
Fax: (651) 224-3056