

Barb Peterson

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**Subject:** FW: Waseca Industrial Road Update - \$1.1 Million Grant Received

**From:** Joshua MacInnes [<mailto:jmacinnes@DuluthMN.gov>]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 4, 2018 3:26 PM

**To:** Joshua MacInnes

**Subject:** Waseca Industrial Road Update - \$1.1 Million Grant Received

**Please see update below in regards to the Waseca Industrial Road Extension Project. Thank you for your partnership and participation with this tremendous group effort to help secure funding for this project.**

The City of Duluth has been awarded two infrastructure grants from the State of Minnesota. The first is a Transportation Economic Development (TED) grant program award from the Department of Transportation in the amount of \$247,000 to support and advance the future recreational and economic development of the St. Louis River corridor at Kayak Bay. The second is a Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure (TEDI) grant program award from the Department of Employment and Economic Development in the amount of \$1.1 million to construct infrastructure that will improve industrial truck circulation in the Irving neighborhood while also improving the safety and viability of that neighborhood.

The Kayak Bay Intersection Signalization project, located at Grand Avenue (Highway 23) and Warwick Street includes the design and installation of a new traffic signal at the base of the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area. The grant of \$247,000 of TED Program funding will serve as a necessary catalyst for the Kayak Bay Development, leveraging up to \$45 million of private investment in new housing, commercial and retail activity and will pave the way for the creation of two unique recreational amenities sure to be enjoyed by residents and the millions of Minnesotans who visit Duluth every year. Additionally, this Project addresses existing pedestrian and transit safety-concerns and reduces the risk to future homeowners, outdoor enthusiasts, workers, hotel guests and shoppers who will daily access this intersection. The installation of the traffic signal is anticipated in 2018-19, to coincide with the progress and construction of the future Kayak Bay Road.

The \$1.1 million TEDI grant award provides funding for the extension of Waseca Industrial Road that currently dead-ends at 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue West. It is anticipated that the new street will be constructed along an unused rail spur to complete the connection from 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to Highway 23. This long awaited project will provide an efficient truck route for businesses in or near the Waseca Industrial Park while preserving nearby city streets for residential use, including the students at the Edison School on Raleigh Street. Business support for the grant application indicated that over the next five years, 100+ jobs will be created and no less than \$13 million will be invested by seven of the businesses in the immediate area. The Waseca Industrial Road Extension Project is slated for 2019 construction.

The local media have run these stories as you may have seen. We wanted to alert you directly and thank you for your partnership and participation. We also want to be available should you have any questions about either project. We are very excited for the positive transformation these infrastructure grants will facilitate in our western neighborhoods.

**Regards,**

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