



Program (H.R.2859) could fund the exploration of alternatives to I-35 in a formal capacity; and

WHEREAS, many cities have successfully removed interstate highways from their city cores to the benefit of increased economic activity, city tax revenue, environmental condition, and quality of life without adversely impacting traffic; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to repurpose land in downtown Duluth currently occupied by the freeway has the potential to provide a significant boost to economic development, housing development, population growth, and job creation, and is worthy of further study.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council supports efforts to reimagine the downtown I-35 corridor between Mesaba Avenue and the Giche-Ode Akiing tunnel and requests the city administration collaborate with the Metropolitan Interstate Council, the Minnesota department of transportation, and grassroots organizations like the Duluth Waterfront Collective to review and/or apply for federal funds to assess the feasibility of reimagining this corridor, especially should a federal program funding such work be enacted into law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city council requests the city administration support efforts by the Metropolitan Interstate Council, MnDOT, and grassroots organizations like the Duluth Waterfront Collective to assess the outcomes of maintaining the downtown I-35 corridor between Mesaba Avenue and the Giche-Ode Akiing tunnel as-is in comparison to potential removal concepts for the purpose of better understanding how concepts and future options may affect outcomes related to transportation, economic activity, environmental condition, tax revenue generation, and quality of life for Duluth residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city council recommends the establishment of long-term visions for the downtown I-35 corridor between Mesaba Avenue and the Giche-Ode Akiing tunnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city council recommends city and public partners (Metropolitan Interstate Council, MnDOT, etc.) apply for funds to study the potential transition of the downtown I-35 corridor to be a more inclusive transportation network, including pedestrian and bike routes to and from Canal Park, Downtown, Lincoln Park, Bayfront, and other neighborhoods; large truck and freight traffic; and emerging trends such as electric scooters, autonomous vehicles, etc.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to declare the city council's support for efforts to reimagine the downtown I-35 corridor between Mesaba Avenue and the Giche-Ode Akiing tunnel by requesting the city administration work with local partners to evaluate and apply for potential federal grant programs which could fund a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of removing this specific I-35 corridor, and help gain a better understanding of how this concept could advance a number of the City's transportation, climate, economic, housing, neighborhood vitality, and other goals.