



MEMORANDUM

**Highway
Department**

Jason Benson, P.E.
County Engineer

Thomas B. Soucy, P.E.
Deputy County Engineer

Blaine Laaveg
Superintendent

TO: Cass County Commission

FROM: Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer *JPB*

DATE: November 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda topic for December 6, 2021 Commission Meeting:
Funding for Two Miles of Roadway Improvements for Access to the
Proposed Casselton Soybean Crushing Facility

Cass County has been working with the ND Department of Commerce, NDDOT, the City of Casselton, and Casselton and Everest Townships to identify road way improvements needed to provide access to a proposed Soybean Crushing Facility located in Section 34, Casselton Township. This proposed site is located west of the City of Casselton and one mile east of Cass County Highway 23 and the Lynchburg I94 interchange. Due to the local roads accessing this site being Township gravel roads, Casselton and Everest Townships have asked Cass County to take over, construct, and maintain this two-mile roadway if the soybean facility is built.

The Harvest Group, LLC is the developer of this proposed Soybean Crushing Facility. They are seeking assurances that Cass County will construct two miles of concrete two lane highway to provide access. The expected traffic to this facility includes 200-300 trucks per day with a max capacity of 600 trucks per day.

The NDDOT has offered to support Cass County by providing offsetting Federal Funding up to 50% of the project costs to a maximum of \$2 million. These funds would be allocated to Cass County for other Federal Aid highways as this proposed two-mile road would not be Federal Aid eligible. Therefore, Cass County would be providing the full cost these roadway improvements through the Cass County Road and Bridge fund.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Move that the Cass County Board of Commissioners agree to provide up to \$3 million in local funding to for two miles of roadway improvements for access to the proposed Casselton Soybean Crushing Facility in order to provide assurances to the project developer that Cass County will construct this two-mile roadway. Any costs of above \$3 million for this project, to include railroad crossings and intersection improvements will be paid by the developer.

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