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July 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0002

Re: **FY 2019 BUILD Grant Application**
3rd Street Northeast Bridge Replacement and Rail Raise
Minot, North Dakota

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Minot, and its project partner, the Souris River Joint Board, are pleased to present this application for funding support for the 3rd Street Northeast Bridge Replacement and Rail Raise in Minot, North Dakota. This project is a multi-jurisdictional effort to increase the resiliency of the community and its industry partners to flooding from the Mouse River.

The project is of national significance, as it increases the reliability and resilience of a major east-west freight corridor, BNSF Railway's Northern Transcon. The project is also located in the single Opportunity Zone within the city limits of Minot. Additionally, the project will replace a functionally obsolete 83-year-old bridge on 3rd Street Northeast.

Great partnerships have been formed since the June 2011 Mouse River flood caused \$1 billion in economic damages in the Minot region. Without these partnerships, the recovery of the community would be nowhere near where it is today. This project would build upon a strong partnership foundation with several agencies – USDOT, USACE, HUD, FEMA, BNSF Railway, the State of North Dakota, the Souris River Joint Board, the City of Minot, and others – to simultaneously increase the resilience of the Minot community and the nation's transportation system.

With this project, the outcomes will be:

- Increasing the resilience of a key east-west rail freight corridor, BNSF Railway's Northern Transcon
- Increasing the resilience and reliability of Amtrak passenger service
- Enhancing safety
- Investing and restoring confidence in an economically distressed area (Opportunity Zone)
- Increasing the resilience of a low-to-moderate-income population to flooding
- Replacing functionally obsolete infrastructure

The support of the USDOT in achieving the vision of enhanced flood resilience for our community and industry partners is critical. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

CITY OF MINOT

Shaun Sipma, Mayor

SOURIS RIVER JOINT BOARD

David Ashley, Chairman