



Qu'Appelle • Souris • Assiniboine

July 15, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Assiniboine River Basin Initiative (ARBI) supports the City of Minot, North Dakota and the Souris River Joint Board in their 2019 BUILD Transportation Grant application for the 3rd Street Northeast Bridge Reconstruction and Rail Raise project in Minot, North Dakota. This project is a critical component of a multi-jurisdictional effort to replace outdated infrastructure while increasing the resiliency of the community and industry to flooding. As we understand it, the proposed project includes raises of BNSF track infrastructure, a new railroad bridge over the Mouse River, and the replacement of the 3rd Street Northeast Bridge in Minot, all of which will coordinate with the implementation of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project.

ARBI is an international organization of stakeholders who live and/or operate in the Assiniboine River Basin, of which the Mouse (Souris) River is an integral component. ARBI's stakeholders include citizens, local governments, state and provincial governments, and non-governmental groups from across the basin in the United States (North Dakota) and Canada (Saskatchewan and Manitoba).

Our mission is to create a resilient Assiniboine River Basin where all residents can adapt to change and achieve environmental, social and economic sustainability through collaborative actions across the basin. The City of Minot and the Souris River Joint Board have been collaboratively implementing flood protection for the residents of North Dakota, while cooperating with urban, rural and business interests throughout the basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Preston".

Dr. Allan Preston, Chair
Assiniboine River Basin Initiative