

Souris River Joint Board
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July 15, 2019

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

Re: **Letter of Support**
2019 BUILD Grant Application
3rd Street Bridge Reconstruction and Rail Raise – Minot, North Dakota

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Souris River Joint Board (SRJB) fully supports the joint application of the City of Minot and the SRJB for the 2019 BUILD Transportation Grant related to 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 This project is a critical component of a multi-jurisdictional effort to replace outdated infrastructure while increasing the resiliency of the community and industry to flooding.

The SRJB, City of Minot, and BNSF Railway have been coordinating efforts related to holistic flood risk management for approximately two years. In late 2018, the groups began working towards a flood risk management solution which would not only increase the community's resilience to flooding but also increase the resilience of BNSF Railway's Northern Transcon to flooding.

The proposed project, which replaces the 80-year old 3rd Street Northeast Bridge and elevates BNSF Railway infrastructure, will dovetail with the community's flood risk management activities associated with the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project, which is being implemented by the SRJB.

The SRJB views this project as a unique opportunity to replace outdated infrastructure while simultaneously reducing the flood risk to the community of Minot and a significant industry partner – BNSF Railway. The support of the USDOT in achieving the vision of enhanced flood resilience for our communities and industry partners is absolutely critical.

Sincerely,

SOURIS RIVER JOINT BOARD

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "David W. Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

David Ashley
Chairman