

July 11, 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 Minot Area Development Corporation (MADC) enthusiastically supports the joint application of the City of Minot and the Souris River Joint Board for the 2019 BUILD Transportation Grant related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 This project is a critical component of a multi-jurisdictional effort to replace outdated infrastructure while increasing the resiliency of the community and industry to flooding.

MADC focuses on the advancement of primary sector businesses in the region. A major focus of MADC is enhancing logistics and shipping via the BNSF Railway's Northern Transcon. As the major east-west freight corridor along the northern tier of the country, the importance of increasing this corridor's resilience to flooding cannot be overstated. The Northern Transcon is the link that connects the Minot region to distribution hubs in the Great Lakes Region as well as the Pacific Northwest. This freight corridor is key to the success of the fundamental components of Minot's economy – agriculture and energy. Enhancing the resilience of this corridor will enhance the resilience of the primary sector components of Minot's economy.

The project is also located in an Opportunity Zone, meaning that investments in this neighborhood will help alleviate economic stresses caused by decades of inattention and lack of investment in this area of the community.

MADC is excited to support this project, which will provide local and national benefit by:

- Increasing the resilience of the BNSF Northern Transcon
- Replacing the 80-year old 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Northeast viaduct
- Enhancing rail, vehicle, pedestrian, resident and business safety
- Assisting Minot's low to moderate income population; and
- Investing and restoring confidence in an Opportunity Zone

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

Sincerely,

MINOT AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Stephanie Hoffart  
President / CEO

