

# City of Minot

Office of the Mayor

July 15, 2019

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

**RE: 2019 BUILD GRANT**

Dear Secretary Chao,

The City of Minot fully supports the joint application of the City 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 This project is a critical component of a multi-jurisdictional effort to replace outdated infrastructure while increasing the resiliency of the community and industry to flooding.

The City of Minot, Souris River Joint Board 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. The project is also located in the single US Census block in Minot that has been designated as an Opportunity Zone.

With a single project, the outcomes will be:

- Upgrading aging infrastructure
- Increasing the resilience of a key east-west rail freight corridor, the BNSF Northern Transcon
- Increasing a low to moderate income population's resilience to flooding
- Enhancing safety
- Investing and restoring confidence in an historically underserved area (Opportunity Zone)

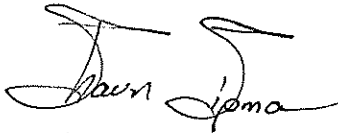
★ The Magic City ★

The City of Minot is firmly committed to the Mouse River basin's resilience and has committed to funding the local share of the project through collection of sales tax. Presently, the City of Minot has committed to the long-term collection of at least a 0.5% sales tax for flood risk management, which is currently generating approximately \$5 million annually. Discussions are ongoing with various local governments within the basin to evaluate increasing the local contributions to be able to implement the full \$1 billion vision by 2040.

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

Sincerely,

CITY OF MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shaun Sipma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Shaun Sipma  
Mayor