



July 12, 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 State of North Dakota fully supports the joint application of the City of Minot and the Souris River Joint Board 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 This project is a critical component of a multi-jurisdictional effort to replace outdated infrastructure while increasing the resiliency of the community and industry to flooding.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 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. The project is also located in the single US Census block in Minot that has been designated as an Opportunity Zone.

The State of North Dakota is firmly committed to the Mouse River basin's resilience and demonstrated its commitment by providing significant funding for flood recovery and flood risk management activities since the disastrous flood of June 2011. During the 2017 North Dakota Legislative Assembly, the legislature indicated its intent to provide \$193,000,000 in State funding for flood control activities located within the city limits of Minot through June 2025. During the 2019-2021 biennium, the total authority granted by the North Dakota State Water Commission was \$46,600,000 for flood control activities within the city limits of Minot. Of the \$193,000,000 committed to the project through legislative intent in 2017, \$104,313,284 has been authorized for expenditure.

We respectfully ask for the full support of the USDOT in achieving the vision of enhanced flood resilience for our local government and industry partners, while simultaneously increasing the resilience and enhancing the safety of our nation's transportation system.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor