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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2306

June 4, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in strong support of the \$25 Million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant application submitted by Anoka County, Minnesota for the Ramsey Gateway Highway 10/169 Project. The project is being led by Anoka County with coordination and support from the City of Ramsey, Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). If completed, the project will improve the safety, mobility, efficiency, and economic competitiveness for commuters and businesses in the region.

US Highway 10/169 is a major artery connecting the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area to the northern Minnesota tourism industry and freight generating centers in Minnesota and North Dakota. It is an interregional corridor in Minnesota that carries over 55,000 vehicles, including 1,650 trucks, daily and includes the busiest BNSF rail line in Minnesota. With the high volume of commercial vehicles and tourists, drivers on U.S. Highway 10/169 frequently face excessive congestion which creates a threat to public safety. In the absence of critical upgrades, estimates show that backups will be nearly a mile long in 2025 and extend to 4 miles by 2045.

In addition to addressing congestion and enhancing mobility, the project is designed to reduce high crash statistics. In the past five years, 218 crashes have occurred on this stretch of highway – an average of one every eight days – and the current crash rate is twice as much as the state average.

Funding through the BUILD Program will help with the construction of new grade-separated interchanges for the County Highway over U.S. Highway 10/169 and the BNSF Railway. Additionally, outdated signalized intersections and access points along U.S. Highway 10/169 will undergo much-needed, and long-overdue, updates. These improvements, will help enhance public safety, make the highway more accessible, lower transportation costs for businesses, and boost Minnesota's economic competitiveness.

I strongly support the Ramsey Gateway Highway 10/169 Project's BUILD grant application. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Nick Lunneborg in my office at Nicholas.Lunneborg@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress