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May 6, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

I am writing this letter to express support for Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. If awarded, the funding would be used to complete US 10 interchange improvements and bridge replacements in the City of Anoka, MN. US 10 serves as a vital corridor for freight, commercial, recreational and local movement, and provides a necessary connection for rural communities to the Twin Cities metropolitan region, and beyond. This project addresses documented critical safety, state of good repair and environmental sustainability concerns, along with improving economic competitiveness and quality of life. MnDOT has worked closely with all affected partners and formed a strong level of commitment from all. This project is part of long-term planning and investment along the US 10 corridor.

The project includes replacement of an existing interchange at US 10 and Ferry Street, replacement of the US 10 bridge crossing over the Rum River, and replacement of the 4th Avenue bridge crossing over US 10. The US 10 bridge crossing over the Rum River is nearing the end of its design life, and concerns of safety on the bridge require federal investment. The project will also replace an existing diamond interchange with a single point urban interchange (SPUI). This new interchange will increase mobility, connectivity and improve roadway safety.

US 10 is a Tier One freight corridor, and the proposed improvements will greatly improve efficiency along the corridor and surrounding regions. The new interchange configuration will also address high crash rates at the intersection of Highway 10 and Trunk Highway 47. The crash rate at this intersection is more than double the state average and is primarily due to traffic buildup along US 10 resulting from inadequate exit ramp lengths.

This project will have significant local and regional impact through improved access to reliable and safe transportation. It will also provide a more effective freight route, replace a critical bridge crossing, and improve roadway safety.

I urge you to give full consideration to their application. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress