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July 11, 2018

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

RE: Highway 10/169 Safety and Mobility Improvement Project – Support for BUILD Funding Request

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program application for the Highway 10/169 Safety and Mobility Improvement Project in the City of Anoka, Minnesota. The project will improve safety and mobility on the Highway 10/169 corridor. This highway serves as a vital link in the local, regional, and state transportation network. The project will benefit over one hundred thousand daily travelers, including those destined for local, regional, and global industries and businesses. The result is a positive impact on local quality of life as well as the regional and state economy.

Highway 10/169 is a key principal arterial roadway connecting Minneapolis-St. Paul to the northwest suburbs and beyond. Currently, the corridor averages daily traffic volumes of 60,000 vehicles with about 3,300 vehicles being heavy commercial vehicles. Traveling from the Twin Cities, the freeway ends in Anoka and the expressway begins. The first two signalized intersections on Highway 10/169 are Fair Oak Avenue and Thurston Avenue. These signals, along with numerous other access points cause significant delays for many hours every day. These delays impact access to businesses, schools, and services, negatively affecting quality of life.

The highway through Anoka also experiences over 100 crashes per year. Each week there is at least one crash during the peak period that results in substantial delays stretching for miles. Average crash rates on Highway 10/169 are much higher than crash rates of similar facilities in Minnesota.

Removing two traffic signals will reduce corridor delays by 75 percent. This improved travel time reliability is critical for the freight and distribution operations that utilize this corridor. Further, corridor safety will also be improved. Removing at-grade access points, along with other project measures, is expected to decrease crashes on this portion of the highway by 57 percent.

For these reasons, I encourage your strong consideration of the BUILD application for the Highway 10/169 Safety and Mobility Improvement Project. This project will improve the daily lives of families and businesses and serve as an investment in the future of this region of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area and State of Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact Landon Zinda with my office at [Landon.Zinda@mail.house.gov](mailto:Landon.Zinda@mail.house.gov) if you require more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Emmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end of the name.

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress