



**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155**

August 31, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is pleased to submit the Bridge Investment Program application for the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement and Mobility Project. Interstate 90, built in the 1950s, is an important, national, east-west transportation network that connects vital economic centers across the United States. However, 10 bridges along I-90, in the City of Austin, are well past their useful design life. This MnDOT project will replace or rehabilitate these bridges, improve associated roadway geometrics, remove the barrier to multimodal connectivity in the region, reduce maintenance costs and increase long-term resiliency.

I-90 is the longest interstate highway in the US and traverses through 13 states, connecting several urban and rural communities. These 10 bridges along the I-90 project corridor are either in poor condition or in fair condition and at risk of falling into poor condition within the next three years. This causes several operational and safety issues for roadway users, freight haulers and businesses along the corridor. There are also significant crash and congestion issues due to narrow bridges, insufficient sight lines and traffic queuing. The absence of accessible multi-use walkways across I-90 is a huge barrier to multimodal connectivity for the community. The project will address all the transportation challenges noted above and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

As one of the fastest growing regions in south central Minnesota, infrastructure improvements in Austin are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes and abilities may access jobs, healthcare and housing. The project improvements will strengthen the multimodal transportation system in Austin and will contribute to economic growth in the region.

The project will be executed as a bundled project, which will help optimize cost savings during construction and maintenance and minimize disruption to the region during construction. MnDOT will provide \$26 million in state funds toward a successful BIP application for this important project.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner