

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, Dc 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to express our support for the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) Bridge Investment Program (BIP) grant application for the Sunset Drive Bridges Reconstruction Project. Thank you for your consideration.

If awarded, this funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement of the Interstate 94 (I-94) bridges over Sunset Drive in Mandan, North Dakota. The existing vertical clearance beneath the I-94 bridges poses a significant challenge to freight movement, leading to numerous instances of traffic becoming impinged beneath the bridges. This not only hinders the flow of goods but also pose safety risks. Furthermore, the existing interchange configuration is unequipped to handle the expected future traffic demand, further exacerbating safety concerns and impeding overall freight mobility.

I-94 is a significant regional corridor for many North Dakota communities, providing a critical connection to energy resources in western North Dakota and the state's growing tourism economy. The proposed improvements to the I-94 interchange bridges will strengthen the transportation system and contribute to growth in the city of Mandan and the region as a whole.

Accordingly, we hope this application receives your favorable consideration, and all of North Dakota's applications your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact us with any updates or inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
US Senator



Kevin Cramer
US Senator



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

**Letter of Support for the 2024 BIP Program: Reconstruction of Interstate 94 Bridges
Over Sunset Drive in Mandan, ND**

As Governor of North Dakota (ND), it is a privilege to express support for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP). The BIP funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement of the Interstate 94 (I-94) bridges over Sunset Drive in Mandan, N.D.

The existing vertical clearance beneath the I-94 bridges is insufficient, resulting in limited freight movement beneath the structure and numerous instances of freight traffic becoming impinged beneath the bridges. Additionally, the existing interchange configuration will not meet future traffic demand without unacceptable delays, ramp queuing and limitations to overall freight mobility at the I-94/Sunset Drive interchange.

I-94 is a significant interregional corridor connecting many ND communities. The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals and statutory project requirements of the BIP opportunity. The improvements to I-94 interchange bridges will strengthen the transportation system and contribute to growth in the region, including the anticipated growth of Mandan.

We support the NDDOT's application for the Reconstruction of I-94 Bridges Over Sunset Drive Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We appreciate your consideration of our request, as this project is vital to our state, the region and the global economic community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burgum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Burgum
Governor

17/djl

C: Ronald J. Henke, Director, NDDOT



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February 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for FY 2024 Bridge Investment Program: Reconstruction of Interstate 94 Bridges over Sunset Drive Project in Mandan, ND

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP). The BIP funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement of the Interstate 94 (I-94) Bridges over Sunset Drive in Mandan, ND. The project aligns with the goals and priorities of BIP funding opportunity by reducing the total person miles traveled over bridges that do not meet current geometric design standards and by improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges.

The existing vertical clearance beneath the I-94 bridges is insufficient, resulting in limited freight movement beneath the structure and numerous instances of freight traffic becoming impinged beneath the bridges. The operational challenges are further exacerbated due to the proximity of Old Red Trail intersection to the I-94 westbound ramps. As a result, the existing interchange configuration will not meet future traffic demand without unacceptable delays, ramp queuing, and limitations to overall freight mobility at the I-94/Sunset Drive interchange.

The project addresses the transportation challenges in the region and will result in a cohesive network that supports diverse community needs. Additionally, the project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals and statutory project requirements of the BIP opportunity. The improvements to I-94 interchange bridges will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Mandan itself.

I support North Dakota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of Reconstruction of I-94 Bridges over Sunset Drive Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2024 BIP funding application your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (701) 355-1852 or rlukaszewski@bismarcknd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Lukaszewski".

Rachel Lukaszewski
Principal Planner/Executive Director
Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organizations