



March 12, 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 Commitment for FY 2024 Bridge Investment Program: Reconstruction of 40th Avenue North Bridges over Interstate 29 & BNSF Railway in Fargo, 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 two bridges along 40th Avenue North, located over Interstate 29 (I-29) and BNSF railroad in Fargo, 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.

Both bridges along 40th Avenue North are in close proximity, approximately 840 feet apart. The vertical alignment of 40th Avenue North as it crosses the railroad creates sight distance challenges and confusion for westbound vehicles on 40th Avenue North, and for vehicles on the I-29 northbound off-ramp. This leads to unsafe travel conditions as drivers erroneously attempt to make a "wrong way" left turn at the northbound ramp, which contributes to the severity of crashes at this location.

The bridges along 40th Avenue North are critical pieces of the region's intermodal freight network, providing direct access across I-29 to air cargo operations and the region's primary industrial growth area. As Fargo and the surrounding region experience ongoing growth and an increase in freight traffic, it is anticipated that transportation challenges in this area will intensify. The proposed improvements will effectively address these challenges, fortifying our transportation system and ensuring the sustained development of Fargo, its neighboring regions, and ultimately benefiting the State of North Dakota as a whole.

I support the NDDOT's application for the funding of Reconstruction of 40th Avenue North Bridges Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In the event of an award, the City of Fargo is committing the dollar amount from a combination of special assessments to the benefiting properties and local sales tax for this project as noted in the grant application. 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 701-241-8562 or [tknakmuhs@fargond.gov](mailto:tknakmuhs@fargond.gov).

Sincerely,

Tom Knakmuhs  
City Engineer