



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 40th Avenue North
Bridges Over Interstate 29 & BNSF Railway**

As Governor of North Dakota, 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 two bridges along 40th Avenue North, located over Interstate 29 (I-29) and BNSF railroad in Fargo, N.D.

Both bridges along 40th Avenue North are approximately 840 feet apart. One bridge spans the BNSF rail lines while the other bridge spans I-29 to the west. The vertical alignment of 40th Avenue North as it crosses the railroad creates sight distance challenges and confusion for westbound vehicles. 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 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 continues to grow and freight traffic continues to increase transportation challenges, these improvements will address these challenges and strengthen the transportation system, sustaining the growth of Fargo, the region and North Dakota.

We support the NDDOT's application for the Reconstruction of 40th Avenue North Bridges Over Interstate 29 & BNSF Railway Project. 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Burgum
Governor

17/djl

C: Ronald J. Henke, Director, NDDOT

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 40th Avenue North Bridges Project. Thank you for your consideration.

If awarded, this 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, North Dakota. Both bridges are integral components of the region's intermodal freight network, providing direct access across I-29 to air cargo operations and the primary industrial growth area. However, the vertical alignment of 40th Avenue North as it crosses the railroad creates sight distance challenges, and confusion leading to hazardous travel conditions for westbound vehicles, contributing to the severity of crashes at the northbound ramp.

As the city of Fargo and the surrounding communities continue to experience growth, the existing transportation system faces increasing challenges related to freight and passenger traffic. The proposed reconstruction will not only address these challenges, but improve the overall transportation system, supporting the growth and development of the region.

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 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support for FY 2024 Bridge Investment Program (BIP) –
Reconstruction of 40th Avenue N Bridge over Interstate 29 and BNSF
Railway in Fargo, North Dakota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments' (Metro COG) support of the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP). Metro COG is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fargo-Moorhead area, responsible for developing the federally recognized Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the programming of federal transportation funds within the Metro COG Planning Area, which includes the City of Fargo in Cass County, North Dakota.

The BIP funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement of two bridges along 40th Avenue N, located over Interstate 29 (I-29) and a BNSF railway line in Fargo, ND. The project aligns with the goals and priorities of the 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 N 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 N, 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 N are critical pieces of the region's intermodal freight network, providing direct access across I-29 to air cargo operations at

Hector International Airport (FAR) and the region's primary industrial growth area. As Fargo and the surrounding region continues to grow at a rapid pace and freight traffic continues to increase, transportation challenges at this location will increase as well. The proposed improvements will address these challenges and strengthen our transportation system, sustaining the growth of Fargo, the surrounding region, and ultimately the State of North Dakota.

Metro COG fully supports the NDDOT's application for funding of the Reconstruction of 40th Avenue N Bridges 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 directly at 701-532-5103 or via e-mail at griffith@fmmetrocog.org.

Yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Griffith".

Ben Griffith, AICP
Executive Director
FARGO-MOORHEAD METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



Highway Department

work: 701-298-2370

fax: 701-298-2395

February 7, 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 40th Avenue North Bridges over Interstate 29 & BNSF Railway in Fargo, ND

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

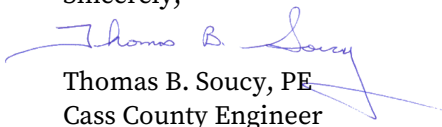
I am writing in support of the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP). The BIP funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned replacement of two bridges along 40th Avenue 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 surrounding region continues to grow and freight traffic continues to increase, transportation challenges at this location will exacerbate. The proposed improvements will address these challenges and strengthen our transportation system, sustaining the growth of Fargo, the surrounding region, and ultimately the State of North Dakota. Cass Highway 20 is west, and Cass Highway 81 is North-East this interchange. Future improvements are planned in the next 3-10 years, if HSIP funding is available then construction improvements would take place in 2026 to Cass Highway 20 that include road widening 3 miles to the west; along with roundabout intersection improvements 1 mile to the west at 45th St. and 3 miles to the west at County Hwy 17, along with the resurfacing Cass Highway 81 to the east to accommodate the increased future traffic needs.

The Cass County Commissioners, County Administrator, Finance Director and myself the County Engineer fully 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. 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 701 298-2374 or email soucyt@casscountynd.gov.

Sincerely,


Thomas B. Soucy, PE
Cass County Engineer

February 9, 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 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. 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 by email at tnakmuhs@fargond.gov or by phone at (701) 241-8562.

Sincerely,



Tom Knakmuhs, PE
City Engineer
City of Fargo, ND