



395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

November 22, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is in reference to Kandiyohi County's application for funding through the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Discretionary Grant Program. This project is a locally led project. The award of CRISI funding would facilitate final design and construction activities under Track 3 for the CSAH 55 Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Elimination Project. The project will construct an overpass to eliminate the current at-grade Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) highway-rail crossing and reconstruct approximately one mile of rural, two-lane, undivided highway on CSAH 55.

Infrastructure improvements in the Willmar area are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes and abilities may access jobs, healthcare and housing. The Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Elimination Project significantly improves interregional corridor connections by reestablishing the local roadway network and access to several suburban, exurban and rural communities in or adjacent to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Metropolitan Area.

I support Kandiyohi County's application for funding of the Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Elimination 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

cc: Jon Huseby, D8 District Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation