



**French Thompson**  
General Director  
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December 1, 2022

Amit Bose, Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: BNSF Letter of Support – Hwy 371/Hwy 210/BNSF Railroad Grade Separation Project

Dear Administrator Bose,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to secure federal discretionary funding under the 2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grant for the Hwy 371/Hwy 210/BNSF Railroad Grade Separation Project. If awarded, this project would allow the MNDOT to conduct preliminary engineering design and associated environmental documentation to propose a grade-separated solution that will improve the flow of freight and people in this rural community. The subsequent Construction Project will allow for the closure of the at-grade crossing and provide safe, unimpeded, rail-separated access between Hwy 371, Hwy 210, and the commercial district, significantly decreasing existing conflicts and risks for the railroad and allowing for planned growth on the BNSF line.

BNSF values our working relationship with the MNDOT and is prepared to work with all involved public agencies on further development of this project, subject to satisfactory review of final engineering and entering into definitive agreements as may be required by BNSF or other project stakeholders.

BNSF appreciates your thorough review of this application and looks forward to continuing its relationship with the MNDOT through this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "French Thompson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

French Thompson  
General Director – Public Infrastructure & Investments