

April 18, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

NORTH DAKOTA FREIGHT RELIABILITY AND PRESERVATION ON US 52 PROJECT

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is pleased to submit this application for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) funding for the freight reliability and preservation on US 52 project.

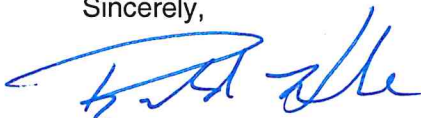
US 52 is a primary north south roadway in central North Dakota and serves as an important transcontinental freight corridor. Rural projects like this benefit the entire nation through improved economic competitiveness and domestic supply of life-sustaining goods, while supporting free trade among the U.S. and Canada. This project supports the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative as it connects North Dakota with the rest of the continent.

During development of the North Dakota State Freight and Rail Plan, adopted in January 2023, numerous stakeholders in both public and private sectors identified this route as a level 1 corridor with a high percentage (>25%) of truck traffic, and is problematic for oversized and overweight vehicles servicing the agriculture, and energy industries. Traffic issues along this corridor cause vehicles to travel many miles without the ability to safely pass slower moving traffic, resulting in wasted time and fuel and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

The NDDOT is fully committed to the Vision Zero strategy working to eliminate motor vehicle crashes fatalities and serious injuries on our highways. Completion of this corridor will ensure the safe and efficient movement of freight vital to the development of the nation's energy and agricultural resources as well as help contribute to national food and energy security. Additionally, long corridors with limited opportunities to pass can encourage risky driver behavior. The NDDOT has already invested passing lane improvements along the project corridor, and the railroad bypass lanes are a continuation of these investments.

In the event of an award, NDDOT is committing the dollar amount from the specified sources for this project as noted in the application. We look forward to working with the USDOT to implement these imperative changes to ensure future north-south connectivity for western North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Henke, PE
Director

17/rjg



April 30, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

North Dakota Freight Reliability and Preservation on U.S. 52 Project


As Governor of North Dakota, it is my pleasure to express support for the North Dakota Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) application for the North Dakota Freight Reliability and Preservation on U.S. 52 Project.

U.S. 52 is a primary north-south roadway in central North Dakota and serves as an important transcontinental freight corridor. Rural projects such as this benefit the entire nation through improved economic competitiveness and domestic supply of life-sustaining goods, while supporting free trade among the U.S. and Canada, North Dakota's largest foreign trading partner.

This project, if funded, would improve the import and export of goods, improving North American free trade. Additionally, it will ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods central to the development of the nation's energy and agricultural resources, contributing to national food and energy security.

We appreciate your consideration of our request for this vital project affecting the nation, state and our international trading partners.

With Gratitude,


Doug Burgum
Governor

17/rjg

C: Ron Henke, Director, NDDOT

May 1, 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:

We write to express our support for the application submitted by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) of the I-94 State of Good Repair Project to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Funding Opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Interstate-94 (I-94) is a significant interregional corridor connecting North Dakota communities within Burleigh County, Kidder County, and beyond. The corridor provides a critical connection to energy resources in western North Dakota and the state's growing tourism sector. Maintaining and improving transportation infrastructure is critical for safe and efficient travel across the United States and is a major component of North Dakota's strategic economic development framework. Improvements to I-94 will deliver a dependable interstate corridor and contribute to growth in the region for decades to come.

If awarded, NDDOT will utilize MPDG funding to bring I-94 from the east Bismarck interchange in Burleigh County to the east Dawson interchange in Kidder County into a state of good repair. The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses safety, mobility, reliability, and economic resiliency of the Interstate Highway system adjacent to Bismarck-Mandan, the second largest Metropolitan Area in North Dakota, benefiting rural communities and interregional travelers. The project will improve interstate operations to provide safe and reliable connectivity for health care, essential services, employment, culturally or historically significant areas, and freight across the region and nation.

Accordingly, we hope this application receives your favorable consideration, and all of North Dakota's applications receive your full and fair consideration. 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
U.S. Senator

Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator

Kelly Armstrong
U.S. Congressman