

AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

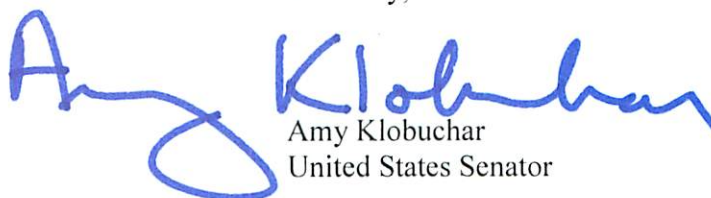
I write in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program (RAISE). If awarded, funding would support the Minnesota Highway 210 Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, which would address critical access and safety concerns, enhance connectivity, and improve the regional transportation network in central Minnesota.

State Highway 210 in Minnesota is a vital arterial route that runs from the Minnesota-North Dakota border through central Minnesota to Lake Superior, connecting the city of Brainerd and the Central Lakes region to other parts of the state. It plays an essential role in supporting commuters, freight movement, commercial transportation, and recreational travel. The highway is also vital to the local economy and a robust regional tourism industry; bringing visitors to the Central Lakes region and connecting its rural communities with the rest of the state. However, State Highway 210 in Brainerd is currently an outdated highway with serious access, mobility, and safety concerns; which negatively impacts freight movement, local economic development, and growth along the corridor.

Funding from the RAISE Program would be used to reconstruct portions of State Highway 210; install accessible multiuse sidewalks, ramps, crosswalks, and trails along the corridor; rehabilitate a bridge; construct new roundabouts; and upgrade aging utility and storm water infrastructure. These improvements would address critical access and safety concerns, increase capacity, update aging infrastructure, and boost local economic development. If approved, the Minnesota Highway 210 Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project would support the needs of rural Minnesotans by cutting commute times, boosting businesses and tourism in the region, and improving public safety.

Again, I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program. If you have any questions, please contact Rommel Lee in my Minnesota office at (612) 727-5220 or by email at Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.Senate.Gov.

Sincerely,


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Congress of the United States

2/2/2023

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

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 the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, Brainerd, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. MN 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. MN 210 has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross over the corridor.

The RAISE funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of MN 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails, rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River, construct two new roundabouts, and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

The project will improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. I support MnDOT's application for the funding of Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (202) 225-6211.

Sincerely,





February 24, 2023

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 the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, Brainerd, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the entire Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the Minnesota Highway 210 (MN 210) in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project.

Over the last several years, Crow Wing County has worked closely with MnDOT to study and develop strategies to improve the local portions of MN 210. This east-west corridor functions as an important link for the municipal and county road systems. It also plays a critical role in Minnesota's overall transportation network that connects the twin ports area of Duluth to important freight destinations around the region.

Currently, the four-mile segment passing through Brainerd experiences the highest volumes of traffic and associated levels congestion of all roadways within Crow Wing County. This combined with limited accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other multimodal users, make it challenging to safely travel along or to cross this portion MN 210.

Crow Wing County's partnership with MnDOT continues to be part of a much larger collection of stakeholders including the cities of Brainerd, Baxter, and a number of other public and private partners. Over the last year, this level of collaboration and public outreach produced a community supported alternative ready for advancement to the next phases of engineering and construction. It achieves a thoughtful balance between the needs of the local residents and those required to sustain MN 210 as a major commuter and freight corridor.

An award of funding from the RAISE program will ensure the timely reconstruction of this critical segment of MN 210. The proposed improvements are designed to decrease congestion and increase safety by reducing conflict points and installing roundabouts at two key intersections. Likewise, it will create a continuous network of multiuse sidewalk, curb ramps, crosswalks, and trails, accessible by underserved populations and users of all abilities. Additionally, the project will provide an opportunity rehabilitate the corridor's only bridge over the Mississippi River and allow the city of Brainerd to make critical improvements to its aging public utilities and stormwater systems.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.
Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.
Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

County Commissioners
Paul Koering – District 1
Jon Lubke – District 2
Steve Barrows – District 3
Rosemary Franzen – District 4
Doug Houge – District 5

Historic Courthouse
326 Laurel Street, Suite 13
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1067
Toll Free: (888) 829-6680
Fax: (218) 824-1054
www.crowwing.us

Please accept this letter as an indication of Crow Wing County's full support for MnDOT's effort to seek funding assistance to advance this important project. I ask that you give MnDOT's application for federal RAISE funding your full attention and favorable consideration.

If you should have any question, please feel free to contact the Crow Wing County Engineer, Timothy Bray. He can be reached by phone (218) 822-2684 or by email tim.bray@crowwing.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Franzen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rosemary Franzen
Chair
Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners

February 6, 2023

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590



www.ci.brainerd.mn.us

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, Brainerd, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. MN 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. MN 210 has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The RAISE funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of MN 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails, rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River, construct two new roundabouts, and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

This project will reconstruct the main corridor through the City of Brainerd and the success of this project is vitally important to the long-term health of the heart of Brainerd. The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. The City of Brainerd City Council supports MnDOT's application for the funding of Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the City of Brainerd. You may reach Administration at (218) 828-2307.

Sincerely,

Dave Badeaux
Mayor
City of Brainerd City Council



February 21, 2023

Secretary 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 the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd/Baxter – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, Brainerd, MN

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the City of Baxter City Council, we are writing this letter as an illustration of the City's support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd/Baxter – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd/Baxter Lakes Area of central Minnesota. MN 210 through Brainerd/Baxter is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. MN 210 has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd/Baxter. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The RAISE funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of MN 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails, rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River, construct two new roundabouts, and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd/Baxter Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd/Baxter Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

Hwy 210 plays an integral role in the economic strength / growth of the City of Baxter and the Brainerd Lakes Area. This road proves a direct route to the ports in Duluth and the transportation hub of the Fargo / Moorhead Metropolitan Area, as well as serves as one of the arteries of our local retail / tourism industry. The improvements due with the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve

overall appeal in and around the project area. We support MnDOT's application for the funding of Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd/Baxter – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We may be reached at 218-454-5100.

Sincerely,



Darrel Olson
Mayor



Bradley Chapulis
City Administrator



February 22, 2023

Minnesota Department of Transportation
Attn: Luke Wehseler
7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425

Re: 2023 RAISE Grant Letter of Support
Resolution No. 2023-014

Dear Mr. Wehseler:

Please find the enclosed signed 2023 RAISE Grant Letter of Support and Resolution No. 2023-014 Resolution of Support. The City Council approved the letter and resolution at the February 21, 2023 meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my administrative assistant Mary Haugen at (218) 454-5115.

Sincerely,

Trevor Walter, P.E.
Public Works Director
City Engineer

RESOLUTION
NO. 11:23

RESOLUTION FOR LAYOUT APPROVAL


At a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Brainerd, held on the 21st day of February 2023, the following Resolution was offered by Member Johnson and seconded by Member O'Day to wit:

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has prepared a final layout for State Project 1805-80 on Trunk Highway 210, from Baxter Drive to 700 feet east of Pine Shores Road within the City of Brainerd for reconstruction improvements; and seeks the approval thereof, as described in Minnesota Statutes 161.162 to 161.167: and

WHEREAS, said final layout is on file in the District 3 Minnesota Department of Transportation office, Baxter, Minnesota, being marked as Layout No. 1A, S.P. 1805-80, from R.P. 121+00.45 to 125+50.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that said final layout for the improvement of said Trunk Highway within the corporate limits be and is hereby approved.

Adopted this 21st day of February 2023


KELLY BEVANS
President of the Council

Approved this 21st day of February 2023


DAVE BADEAUX
Mayor

ATTEST:


JENNIFER BERGMAN
City Administrator



January 27, 2023

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 the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, Brainerd, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of our 1,100 member businesses and organizations, I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program.

The Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. MN 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. MN 210 has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd.

The RAISE funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of MN 210, construct accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails, rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River, and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state.

The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 218-829-2838 or matt@brainerdlakeschamber.com.

Sincerely,

Matt Kilian, President
Brainerd Lakes, Crosslake & Pequot Lakes Chambers of Commerce



**Brainerd Lakes
Administrative Office**
224 West Washington Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 829-2838

**Brainerd Lakes
Welcome Center**
7393 State Highway 371
Brainerd, MN 56401
(800) 450-2838



Crosslake Office
County Road 3 and Route 66
P.O. Box 315
Crosslake, MN 56442
(218) 692-4027



Pequot Lakes Office
Along the Paul Bunyan Trail
P.O. Box 208
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
(218) 568-8911 or (800) 950-0291

February 25, 2023

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 the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, Brainerd, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. MN 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. MN 210 has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The RAISE funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of MN 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails, rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River, construct two new roundabouts, and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. I support MnDOT's application for the funding of Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at Adam.Fulton@state.mn.us or 218-316-3025.

Sincerely,

Adam Fulton
Captain
Brainerd District Commander, Minnesota State Patrol



French Thompson
General Director
Public Infrastructure & Investments

BNSF Railway Company
P. O. Box 961502
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0052

2600 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2830
(817) 352-6316

French.Thompson@BNSF.com

February 28, 2023

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

Subject: BNSF Letter of Support – Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd - Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to secure federal discretionary funding under the U. S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant for the Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd - Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project. If awarded, the project will fund the planning and preliminary engineering required to improve pavement and infrastructure conditions, while simultaneously addressing safety and mobility concerns near Highway 210/Washington Street in Brainerd, MN.

BNSF values our working relationship with 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 MnDOT through this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a small mark at the end.

French Thompson
General Director – Public Infrastructure & Investments

Feb. 20, 2023
Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of Essentia Health — a health system serving patients in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota — to encourage support of a funding request through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program to enhance Minnesota Highway 210. Improvements are needed to ensure vehicle and pedestrian safety; better traffic flow; accessibility; and to repair aging infrastructure.

The RAISE funding would reconstruct an approximately four-mile segment of MN 210; construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks, ramps, crosswalks and trails; rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MN 210 runs near Essentia Health's main campus, which serves as the medical hub for the historic Brainerd Lakes Area and surrounding communities. Because of its proximity to Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center, MN 210 is used by many of our patients, visitors and staff. It's also a critical access point for emergency services, including ambulance, law enforcement and fire department personnel who frequent this corridor while transporting patients as well as responding to our campus for other safety calls. Maximizing the highway's functionality and safety is crucially important to ensure that access to health care, especially urgent and emergent care, is not limited.

MN 210 has the highest usage rate in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. It's also heavily used by pedestrians and bicyclists, which it's not currently designed for.

This project is very important to Brainerd and our region as it will improve traffic flow. More importantly, it will make this street safer while replacing aging infrastructure. Because of its impact on the health and vitality of our region, Essentia Health strongly supports MnDOT's application for the funding of this project, which is a much-needed investment in our community. We encourage you to give the 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration.

If you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to reach out. I can be contacted at (218) 828-7656 or michael.larson@essentiahealth.org.

Regards,

Mike Larson
Senior Vice President of Operations
Essentia Health

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FY 2023 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE MN 210 IN BRAINERD –
SAFETY, MOBILITY, AND MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity “RAISE” Transportation Grants Program provides dedicated, discretionary funding for transportation infrastructure projects of local or regional significance; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation is soliciting applications for \$2.3 billion for the FY 2023 RAISE Grants Program as appropriated through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law under the National Infrastructure Investments and 2023 Appropriations Act; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2023 RAISE Grants Program directs funds be divided not more than 50 percent for rural areas and 50 percent for urbanized areas and requires measures to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of grant funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects for FY 2023 RAISE Grants Program include surface transportation capital projects including highway, bridge, or other road projects as well as public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, port infrastructure investments, surface transportation components of an airport project, and intermodal projects, among others; and

WHEREAS, the maximum award for this round of FY 2023 RAISE Grants Program is \$25 million under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds and \$45 million under the 2023 Appropriations Act funds; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Department of Transportation is seeking funds to improve safety, mobility, and multimodal transportation alternatives in Brainerd; and

WHEREAS, funds would be used to reconstruct or repave approximately four-mile segment of MN 210 from Baxter Drive to Pine Shores Road; construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails; rehabilitate bridge #5060 over Mississippi River; construct two new roundabouts; update utilities and signal systems, realign and access; replace stormwater infrastructure along the project corridor; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements will reduce fatal/serious injury crashes through the existing intersections and the numerous conflict points, enhance non-motorized transportation infrastructure, improve the safety, mobility, travel time reliability, resiliency, multimodality, and economic and regional growth of Brainerd Lakes Area; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Region Five Development Commission supports and approves the application towards FY 2023 RAISE Grants Program for MN 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project.

Motion by Regional Commissioner Kern,

Second by Regional Commissioner Stenglein

To adopt Resolution # 23-04 on this 22nd day of February 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Kangas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R5DC, Chairperson Robert Kangas
Region Five Development Commission



January 31, 2023

Secretary Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project, Brainerd, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's application for funding through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility, and Multimodal Improvements Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. MN 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. MN 210 has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

The RAISE funding would reconstruct approximately four-mile segment of MN 210, construct a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks, and trails, rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River, construct two new roundabouts, and upgrade aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the general look and feel of the corridor will be improved to preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large swath of central Minnesota – a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area (MSP) and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd Lakes Area and including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to District 3's regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers across the state. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the community and increases safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing.

The connectivity, safety and other enhancements in this project align nicely with the mission of the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC). Furthermore, R5DC is pleased to support the implementation this project as it not only aligns with local community engagement and need, but also is in alignment with multiple project concepts identified in Region Five's Sustainable Communities Regional Development Grant which we received in 2011 through a collaboration between HUD/EPA/DOT. Therefore, we are pleased to provide a letter of support for this proposed project.

The improvements due to the project will serve to improve traffic flow, provide safer streets, repair aging infrastructure, expand multimodal access, and improve overall appeal in and around the project area. I support MnDOT's application for the funding of Minnesota Highway 210 in Brainerd – Safety, Mobility,

Bridging Relationships & Resources

200 1st Street NE Suite 2, Staples, MN 56479 | 218.894.3233 | regionfive.org



REGION FIVE

Development Commission

and Multimodal Improvements Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at terickson@regionfive.org or by phone at 218.820.9281.

Sincerely,

Tad Erickson
Transportation Planner
Region Five Development Commission