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March 11, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 RAISE Discretionary Grant: US Highway 169/County Road (CR 4) Rural Safety and Mobility Interchange Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing this letter to express our support for the Sherburne County request for a 2022 DOT RAISE Discretionary grant to improve the safe and efficient operations of the US Highway 169/County Road (CR 4) Interchange.

The Project will replace the last remaining at-grade signalized intersection for a 75-mile section of US 169. The interchange includes a tight ramp configuration west of US 169 and a loop in the southeast quadrant of the interchange. The proposed design minimizes wetland resources and right-of-way impacts to lands adjacent to US 169 and constructs a safe multimodal pedestrian and bicycle trail facility connection on the proposed CR 4 bridge crossing over US 169. The Project will consolidate and improve local roadway access and private access points on US 169 with a hybrid diamond interchange at CR 4.

We are excited that the project has been allocated \$2.0M in State Bond funds for the design of the interchange. We are even more excited to see the design work is well underway.

Construction of the US Highway 169/County Road (CR 4) Interchange Project will greatly benefit ISD 728 staff and community members, creating safe opportunities to get to and from schools and local businesses. I am writing to express my support.

Please give this 2022 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration, and if I can answer anything further, please let me know. I may be reached at 763-241-3401 or at daniel.bittman@isd728.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Bittman

Superintendent of Schools

Daniel Bittman

ISD 728