

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2310

March 29, 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 write to request your strong consideration for Sherburne County's request for a 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant. If awarded, the funding would improve the safe and efficient operations of the US Highway 169/County Road (CR 4) Interchange in Zimmerman, Minnesota. This critical project is supported by the state of Minnesota with \$2 million in State Bond funds for the design of the interchange. That design work is already underway.

The project will consolidate and improve eighteen local roadway access and twenty-six private access points on US 169 with a hybrid diamond interchange at CR 4. The project will replace the last remaining at-grade signalized intersection for a 75-mile section of US 169. This 75-mile corridor connects Interstate 94 and Mille Lacs County. Reconstruction of this intersection is critical to eliminate significant safety issues, expand capacity, and support the freight and tourism industries that rely on this corridor.

The planned 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. It also constructs a safe multimodal pedestrian and bicycle trail facility connection on the proposed CR 4 bridge crossing over US 169.

Construction of the US Highway 169/County Road (CR 4) Interchange Project is regionally significant, as it will greatly benefit several rural communities in central Minnesota. The project enhances access to the Twin Cities metropolitan region. U.S. highway 169 is a vital north-south arterial route, which supports commuters, freight movement and recreational travel.

For the reasons above, I urge your full consideration of the Sherburne County's application for the funding of the Highway 169/ County Road 4 Project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jake Schwitzer, 651-221-1016, in my office.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator