

AMY KLOBUCHAR  
MINNESOTA

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United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 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, Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program. If awarded, funding would support the purchase and deployment of BridgeWatch, which would help MnDOT better track flooding conditions across the state.

BridgeWatch is a centralized web-based monitoring system that tracks environmental and weather conditions near critical infrastructure. Specifically, the system helps local government agencies and other public entities monitor flooding conditions so they can better respond to hazardous, costly, and potentially catastrophic floods. Several local government agencies have successfully utilized BridgeWatch to proactively monitor flood and damage potential of bridges and other vulnerable infrastructure. In other states, the system has successfully prevented bridges from collapsing and has also saved lives.

Funding from the United States Department of Transportation would support the purchase and deployment of BridgeWatch in Minnesota. Specifically, MnDOT would use the system to issue advance warnings when water levels exceed safe thresholds that could compromise critical infrastructure. The system would also be used to deploy maintenance crews, manage asset information, collect flood data, and help make informed decisions during flooding and severe weather. BridgeWatch would improve Minnesota's transportation network by implementing a system that protects essential infrastructure, enhances public safety, and organizes and stores data to make Minnesota more resilient to future flooding and storms.

Again, I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation 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](mailto:Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator