



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz  
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

August 23, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the State of Minnesota, I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) discretionary grant program to facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls ("the Project") by removing the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, this project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides. This project will strengthen the resiliency of our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support federal funding for the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Walz".

Tim Walz  
Governor



August 7, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the designated transportation planning agency in northeast Minnesota, the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) supports the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region. It is a designated Scenic Byway supporting local hospitality businesses.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. S. Hubley", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Executive Director

221 West 1st Street, Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 722-5545 ▼ (800) 232-0707 ▼ info@ardc.org ▼ ardc.org  
*EOE/AA/M/F/Vet/Disability Employer*

August 7, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

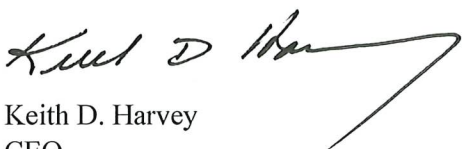
I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate the realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Cook Area Health Services, Inc., dba Scenic Rivers Health Services is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing primary medical, behavioral health, and dental services to residents of Koochiching County. We have clinics in Bigfork, Big Falls and Northome. Many of our patients reside and/or travel along the Highway 11 corridor being proposed in this grant. Safe and accessible transportation is a critical need for the patients in our region. We strongly support the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project as it will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 (218) 361-3135 or by email at [kharvey@scenicrivershealth.org](mailto:kharvey@scenicrivershealth.org).

Sincerely,



Keith D. Harvey  
CEO

Cook Area Health Service, Inc., dba Scenic Rivers Health Services

August 8, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

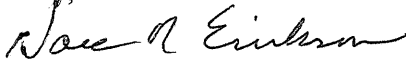
The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Erickson Timber is a logging contract company located in Baudette, MN that employs 15 people year around and seasonally up to 20, plus contract haulers.

Highway 11 is a vital route for our business, up to 25 round trips daily to International Falls paper mill. Disruption of this results in a 60 mile detour each way, making 120 miles of extra travel. This wastes fuel, time and productivity. Funding this project ensures our crucial link to our markets. The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 218-556-1868 or [erickson\\_dale@icloud.com](mailto:erickson_dale@icloud.com)

Sincerely,



Dale N. Erickson  
President

## Erickson Timber Products Inc.

Tel 218-634-2599  
Fax 218-634-1822

1801 State Hwy 72 SE  
Baudette, MN 56623

[erickson timber@wiktel.com](mailto:erickson timber@wiktel.com)

June 29, 2023

PO Box 906 • 403 Fourth Street NW  
Bemidji, MN 56619-0906

218.444.4732  
Fax 218.444.4722

[www.hrdc.org](http://www.hrdc.org)

To: PROTECT Fund Selection Committee

Subject: Letter of Support for the Hwy 11 realignment

As the Commission Chair for Headwaters Regional Development Commission, I am writing in support of the PROTECT application for Hwy 11 realignment between Indus and Loman. Headwater Regional Development Commission supports the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the purpose of building infrastructure that is resilient to climate change. Hwy 11 is a corridor used as a major access point to Baudette and Lake of the Woods improving this corridor is important to the people of Indus and Lomen but also Baudette.

We look forward to the opportunities this project brings to sustaining infrastructure in the Headwaters region. We are excited to be a part of this important planning effort. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,



Cal Larson

Chair



## **INTERNATIONAL FALLS FIRE/RESCUE/EMS**

600 Fourth Street  
International Falls, Minnesota 56649  
Telephone (218) 283-7993  
Fax (218) 283-9151  
adamm@ci.international-falls.mn.us

**FIRE CHIEF**  
**Adam C. Mannausau**

August 10, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Speaking as the Ambulance Director for the International Falls Ambulance Service, our Prescribed Service Area or (PSA) stretches 42 miles west of International Falls to the unincorporated community of Birchdale. If Highway 11 becomes impassable for an extended period of time, we would not be able to provide ambulance services to residents in our County.

The International Falls Fire/Rescue/EMS also contracts as one of the eleven State Hazardous Materials Response Teams. Our coverage area includes Lake of the Woods County and parts of Roseau County, not being able to use Highway 11 would greatly increase our response times to those areas as Highway 11 serves as the most direct route.

The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project is imperative to the safety, health and welfare of the residents of northern Minnesota! The project will also strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region, while supporting what we already have.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached by email at [adammm@ci.international-falls.mn.us](mailto:adammm@ci.international-falls.mn.us) or by telephone at (218) 283-7993.

Sincerely,

Adam Mannausau  
Fire Chief / Ambulance Director / HAZMAT HMRT Lead  
International Falls Fire/Rescue/EMS





**KOOCHICHING COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Courthouse  
715 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
International Falls, MN 56649

Telephone: (218) 283-1157 Fax: (218) 283-1159

August 4, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Highway 11 serves as the only connection from Koochiching County to the northwestern parts of Minnesota. The critical nature of this connection is highlighted by Koochiching County Environmental Services solid waste management program. One of the major components of the program is hauling the County municipal solid waste (MSW) to Mar-Kit Landfill in Hallock,



MN. We haul approximately 7,000 to 8,000 tons of MSW to the Mar-Kit Landfill annually. Highway 11 serves as the only route used to transport this waste therefore this Highway is a critical route serving this daily need. We support the completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project. This project will help maintain our transportation system and contribute to strengthening our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 (218) 283-1157.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew P. Gouin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Matthew Gouin  
Koochiching County  
Director of Environmental Services



August 8, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Highway 11 is the main throughfare in the northern portion of Koochiching County. Any closure to this segment of roadway would drastically affect travel times for motorists and additionally there would be a significant negative contribution to our local economy. It serves not only passenger traffic traveling east and west along the Canadian/US border, but also serves as main route for our logging industry. A large percentage of wood used for our local white paper mill (PCA, also our largest

employer in the County) comes from west of the slide location and is transported to the plant in International Falls. In the event of closure, the nearest State Highway detour would add an additional 70 miles of travel to the route. Furthermore, this route provides emergency services for the northwest area of the County, including but not limited to ambulance, fire protection, customs and border protection, and County law enforcement based out of the International Falls area. Lastly, with the rural school located at Indus closing recently, a large majority of kids will be riding the school bus to the nearest school, negative road conditions will cause cancellation or delays to their transportation. The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached by phone 218-283-1186 or by email [trent.nicholson@co.koochiching.mn.us](mailto:trent.nicholson@co.koochiching.mn.us). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trent Nicholson", with a stylized flourish above the name.

Trent Nicholson PE  
County Engineer  
Koochiching County Highway Department



## Koochiching Economic Development Authority

August 7, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

This highway corridor is critical to the local economy in terms of tourism and the timber and paper industry which is the lifeblood of our economy. The loss of this portion of the highway would create economic distress and acting in a proactive fashion will ensure no disruption of commerce and to homeowners and the traveling public. The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 (218)283-8585.

Sincerely,

P.O. Box 138 • International Falls, MN 56649 • Phone: 218-283-8585 • Fax: 218-283-4688  
Toll-Free: 1-800-452-3569 • Email: [keda@businessupnorth.com](mailto:keda@businessupnorth.com) • Website: [www.businessupnorth.com](http://www.businessupnorth.com)

August 7, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

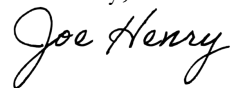
I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Lake of the Woods is considered The Walleye Capital of the World. Tourism is our #1 industry and fuels our entire economy. Hwy 11 is a major transportation corridor to the Lake of the Woods area. The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 [joe.henry@lakeofthewoodsmn.com](mailto:joe.henry@lakeofthewoodsmn.com) or 320-260-7727.

Sincerely,



Joe Henry  
Executive Director  
Lake of the Woods Tourism

# LITTLEFORK – BIG FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 362



700 Main Street, Littlefork, MN 56653  
Jamie Wendt, Superintendent

☎ 218.278.6614 Fax: 218.278.6615  
www.isd362.k12.mn.us

August 7, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides. The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 (218)278-6614 ext. 210.

Sincerely,

Jamie Wendt  
Superintendent/Principal  
Littlefork-Big Falls School



August 9, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Marvin has multiple trucks traveling this highway weekly and if it is closed due to slope failure, it would be a huge expense in miles and time. The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 [mikesch@marvin.com].

Sincerely,

Mike Scheef

Logistics Manager  
Marvin Windows



# NORTHWEST

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

August 8, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

The Northwest Regional Development Commission goal is to support local efforts to maintain our economic vitality and improve the quality of life in the 7 counties of NW Minnesota. We support this project because we have several of the largest manufacturing plants in the state of Minnesota that depend on TH 11 to ship their products across the state. In addition, we continue to play an important role in the prosperity of our region. The leisure and hospitality industry are an important producer of jobs. Therefore, tourism of the Scenic Byway that travels to the NW region is essential to the local economic development and promotion of our regional assets.

The completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region. I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 (218)745-9109 or via email [darla@nwrdc.org](mailto:darla@nwrdc.org) .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darla Waldner". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and decorative.

Darla Waldner  
NWRDC Executive Director



August 7, 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

Furthermore, as the CEO of Rainy Lake Medical Center, I believe the realignment of MNTH 11 is crucial for several other reasons:

- **Public Safety:** The current condition of the road poses a serious hazard to motorists, increasing the risk of accidents and injuries. By relocating the roadway away from the eroding riverbank, we can ensure the safety of all travelers, including local residents and tourists.
- **Infrastructure Preservation:** MNTH 11 is a valuable infrastructure asset that requires proactive measures to prevent further damage. Realignment will protect this important transportation corridor from the ongoing impacts of natural erosion, safeguarding our investment in public infrastructure.
- **Environmental Conservation:** The current slide not only endangers human safety but also poses a risk to the delicate ecosystem of the adjacent river. The realignment will help preserve the local environment, ensuring the sustainable use of the river and its surroundings.
- **Economic Growth:** Maintaining a reliable transportation network is vital for regional economic development. A safe and functional MNTH 11 will support businesses, promote tourism, and attract investment in the area.

I support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT 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 218-283-5488.

Sincerely,



Robert Pastor, RN, MBA, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer

August 8, 2023

Mr. 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 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Roseau County Board of Commissioners, I am writing in support of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate realignment of Highway 11 between Baudette and International Falls, MN, to remove the highway from two critical slope failures. Located along the Rainy River and the border between the United States and Canada, the Project will enhance the resilience of the transportation system in an area with very limited access to integral services, products, and employment.

The Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including extreme weather events. By removing the roadway from the critical slide areas, the highway will be able to remain in operation and slope stabilization measures will be able to be installed to reduce the effects of the slides.

The Highway 11 corridor is extremely important for the major manufacturers and the agricultural industry located in Roseau County; therefore, the completion of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region.

We strongly support MnDOT's application for funding of the Highway 11 Rainy River Slide Realignment and Resiliency Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jack Swanson  
Chair, Roseau County Board of Commissioners  
Phone: 218-463-2591

Cc: Mr. Troy Schroeder, MnDOT Senior Planner