

United States Senate

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: Interstate 94 Snow Fences from Moorhead to Alexandria 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 would facilitate completion of the corridor-wide snow fence project along Interstate 94 between the cities of Moorhead and Alexandria. This funding will improve highway safety, minimize the demand for wintertime maintenance, and reduce the need to close the road during winter storm.

The Interstate 94 Snow Fences from Moorhead to Alexandria 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. These fences not only block snow drifting, they are aesthetically oriented to the environment to blend in with the landscape.

The completion of the Interstate 94 Snow Fences from Moorhead to Alexandria project along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region.

For the reasons above, I encourage your strong consideration of this proposal. If you any questions, please contact Myles Artis by email at myles_artis@smith.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith

United States Senator