



**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155**

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is pleased to submit the Highway 210 Brainerd, MN – Equity, Safety, and Multimodal Connectivity Project for funding through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. The award of RAISE funding would facilitate long-planned improvements along Highway 210 in the historic Brainerd Lakes Area of central Minnesota. Highway 210 through Brainerd is an important corridor for statewide users, the commuting public, freight, and those accessing regional destinations. Highway 210 has the highest traffic volumes in Crow Wing County and is the only continuous east-west corridor in Brainerd. There are currently limited accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel along or cross-over the corridor.

MnDOT District 3 spans a large part of central Minnesota—a diverse mix of both rapidly urbanizing communities in the southern portion around St. Cloud and extending along Interstate 94 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area, and rural communities in the north extending past Brainerd/Baxter, including the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The project is critically important to the district’s regional economy as it supports key industries as well as consumers in the Brainerd/Baxter region and across the state.

The RAISE funds would allow reconstruction a four-mile segment of Highway 210, construction of a network of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible multiuse sidewalks ramps, crosswalks and trails; rehabilitate the bridge over the Mississippi River; construction of two new roundabouts; and an upgrade to aging utility and stormwater infrastructure. The project will provide multimodal connectivity to the community and increase safety and travel time reliability so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, recreation, and housing. In addition, the improved general look and feel of the corridor will preserve the Brainerd Lakes Area as a popular vacation destination for Minnesotans.

The project will improve traffic flow, provide safer streets and repair aging infrastructure. It will address the transportation challenges in the region and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal access and alternatives that support diverse community needs. MnDOT will contribute \$26 million of state and federal funds toward a successful RAISE application for this important project. Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota’s transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner

Equal Opportunity Employer