



June 19, 2018

# North Dakota Department of Transportation

Thomas K. Sorel  
*Director*

Doug Burgum  
*Governor*

Secretary Elaine L. Chao  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: FY 2018 BUILD Discretionary Grant Program

The North Dakota Department of Transportation respectfully requests your support for the Multi-State Regional Connectivity Project.

If successful, BUILD funds would be leveraged with a non-federal match to replace Nielsville Bridge 5767, which spans the Red River between Polk County, Minnesota and Traill County, North Dakota. This bridge was constructed in 1939 and permanently closed in 2015 due to structural integrity issues. It must be replaced to restore a vital economic link for agriculture, businesses and commerce between the two states.

The benefits of the project are consistent with the goals of the new BUILD program of increasing public safety, improving the condition of existing transportation facilities, supporting economic competitiveness and improving quality of life.

When complete, the project will significantly improve public safety. With Bridge 5767 permanently closed, first responders from Nielsville Fire Department located a mere two miles from Red River cannot respond to North Dakota calls. Instead, the homes, businesses and lives that are normally protected by the Nielsville Fire Department now have to rely on Buxton Fire Department, located 25 miles away.

The project will also improve the condition of existing transportation facilities, as approaching roadways will be added to existing county maintenance routes and schedules designed to maximize asset life in a state of good repair. Reducing travel distances and mobility costs will decrease fuel consumption and boost economic competitiveness for area agricultural producers and manufacturers and other employers.

This important transportation infrastructure segment is integral for North Dakota and Minnesota. Your careful review and consideration of this grant application is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Sorel  
Director