



June 28, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0002

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express the support of Transystems for the BUILD Grant application from Polk and Traill Counties to reconstruct the Nielsville Bridge 5767 crossing the Red River between North Dakota and Minnesota. Transystems is a significant user of the infrastructure in Polk and Traill counties and has been impacted by the permanent closure of the bridge.

Each year, depending on the success of the sugar beet crop, we haul 8,200 loads or around 250,000 tons across this bridge. We would normally cross the Nielsville Bridge 5767, but its continued closure continues to prevent this. This adds about 82,000 miles and almost 2,100 hours to the regular haul. This adds to our cost, which in turn adds to the costs of the farmers growing the crops.

Most importantly is the safety consideration. The extra hours of drive time would disappear with the rebuilding of the bridge. Safety is a function of hours of exposure that vehicles are on the road. If a vehicle is not raveling, there is less exposure to risks.

The current detours force our trucks through two small towns. Taking 8,200 loads off of their roads will be viewed as beneficial for these communities. It would both save on fuel and make our communities safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Carl". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Troy Carl
Vice President/General Manager
Transystems
2211 South Washington St, Suite A
Grand Forks, ND 58201