

March 10, 2020

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

To whom it may concern,

Buxton Rural Fire Department is writing a letter of support for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to replace the bridge over the Red River connecting Minnesota and North Dakota. The Buxton Rural Fire Department serves the communities of Buxton and Cummings, ND along with approximately 170 square miles in Northeast Traill County, ND. Buxton has a mutual aid agreement with Nielsville, MN to assist and support the residences and commuters in Buxton Fire southeastern are a of responsibility. The bridge connecting Minnesota and North Dakota along Polk County, MN Highway 1 and Traill County, ND Highway 17 is the only way for Nielsville Fire Department and Buxton Rural Fire Department to continue their mutual agreements. Buxton's Fire Hall is 18 miles from the bridge crossing while Nielsville Fire Hall is 3 miles from the bridge crossing. The closure of this bridge presents a safety hazard to those residences living, working, and commuting in this area as emergency response time has been dramatically increased. The Buxton Rural Fire Department fully supports the efforts of ensuring the bridge between Minnesota and North Dakota is restored to safe working capacity. Going five years without this vital link has created problems which need to be resolved with a new bridge as soon as possible.

Please contact the fire department with any questions about Buxton Rural Fire Department's operation and services.

Sincerely,



Fire Chief
Buxton Rural Fire Department
Buxton, ND