

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We are writing to express my support for the application submitted by Traill County, North Dakota, and Polk County, Minnesota, on behalf of the Multi-State Regional Connectivity Project to the fiscal year (FY) 2020 BUILD grant program. Thank you for your consideration.

The Nielsville Bridge 5767 served as a primary route between Traill and Polk Counties and was shuttered in 2015 due to permanent structural issues. This has impacted 300 to 500 ranchers, farmers, manufacturers, and residents who utilized this transportation link on a daily basis. In order to correct this situation, the counties have proposed to restore this infrastructure and update the connecting highways.

The project would involve updating 2.5 miles of Polk County State Aid Highway 1 from the west limits of Nielsville, Minnesota, to the east abutment of the newly proposed bridge. One thousand feet of Traill County Road 17 will also be reconstructed to match current design standards. The remaining 9.5 miles of Trail County Road 17 to Trail County Road 81 will be milled and capped with bituminous surfacing to strengthen and smooth the roadway. As a whole, the proposed project provides an opportunity to reduce transportation time and costs, which would benefit the regional economy-while also improving safety.

Accordingly, we hope this project receives your favorable consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact ours offices with any updates or inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress