

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

FY 2020 BUILD DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

The North Dakota Department of Transportation supports the multi-state bridge replacement 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. Its replacement will restore a vital economic link for agriculture, businesses, and commerce between the two states.

The benefits of the project are consistent with the BUILD program goals 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 the Red River, cannot respond to North Dakota emergencies. Instead, the homes, businesses, and lives otherwise protected by the Nielsville Fire Department must rely on Buxton Fire Department, located 25 miles away.

This project will positively impact various industries in the region by reducing travel distances and mobility costs, decrease fuel consumption, and boost economic competitiveness for area agricultural producers, manufacturers, and other employers.

This transportation infrastructure segment is a vital link between North Dakota and Minnesota. Your support for this grant application is greatly appreciated.



William T. Panos
Director

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