

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

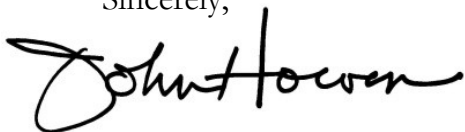
We write to express our support for the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program for the Grand Forks 42nd Street Grade Separation Project to Improve Efficiency, Connectivity, Equity and Safety (PIECES). Thank you for your consideration.

The BNSF Railway currently runs through the center of Grand Forks, bisecting the city and forcing traffic and pedestrians to either use the at-grade crossing on 42nd Street or re-route more than a mile to cross Columbia Road. With the University of North Dakota (UND) Campus located north of the tracks and much of the housing located south of the tracks, this has created significant issues with connectivity and mobility, especially for non-motorized travelers. The already significant delays directly resulting from the railroad are projected to grow even further in the coming years based on increases in railway and roadway traffic. These delays not only make the intersection inefficient and unreliable for travel, but also disproportionately impact the low-income and minority populations living in this area.

In response, NDDOT is proposing to construct a railroad grade separation along North 42nd Street in Grand Forks, helping to alleviate roadway congestion, enhancing bicycle and pedestrian mobility, and providing equitable access to UND for both students and faculty. This project is also the number one priority for BNSF in North Dakota and has their full support.

Accordingly, we hope this application receives your favorable consideration, and that all of North Dakota's applications receive your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact us with any updates or inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
US Senator



Kevin Cramer
US Senator



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress