

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express our support for the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) 2021 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the US 52 Rural Freight Passing Lanes Project. Thank you for your consideration.

US 52 moves freight and passenger traffic diagonally across North Dakota, linking rural farming communities and energy producers to Canada and an intermodal facility in Minot, ND. In order to accommodate large oversized and overweight vehicles that use this corridor daily, NDDOT is proposing to construct passing lanes on 165-miles of two-lane highway between Carrington, ND and 6 miles north of Kenmare, ND. This effort would connect with a similar project scheduled for construction in 2022 that extends the upgraded corridor through the 24-hour US/Canadian border crossing of Portal, ND, the 13th busiest out of the 77 ranked U.S./Canadian ports for truck traffic over the past two years.

Adding passing lanes along this diagonal freight corridor would significantly improve agriculture and energy transportation and is exactly what the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) initiative was designed to address and support. By allowing traffic to safely pass slower moving traffic at critical points along this corridor, this project will reduce long delays for both industry and the traveling public.

As you know, North Dakota's economy has maintained a significant rate of growth, which has placed an unprecedented burden on our state's infrastructure, including the State Highway System. While the state has made tremendous efforts to meet these ever-increasing needs, additional federal funding is needed. Considering North Dakota is one of only nine states to not yet receive funding under the INFRA program, such an award would be welcome assistance toward ensuring our state can continue to produce and deliver the food and energy our nation needs.

Accordingly, we hope that all North Dakota applications receive your full and fair consideration, and that NDDOT's application for the US 52 Rural Freight Passing Lanes Project receives your favorable consideration. Thank you for your attention to this 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
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress