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February 25, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing this letter to express support for Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) application for funding through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. Highway 10 serves as a vital corridor for freight movement, connecting rural communities in my district to the Twin Cities metropolitan region. The proposed interchange and bridge replacements will increase efficiency and safety on the corridor.

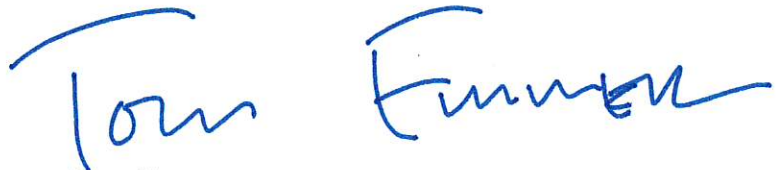
The project includes replacement of an existing interchange at Highway 10 and Ferry Street, replacement of the Highway 10 bridge crossing over the Rum River, and replacement of the 4th Avenue bridge crossing over Highway 10. The Highway 10 bridge crossing over the Rum River is nearing the end of its design life, and concerns of safety on the bridge require federal investment. The project will also replace an existing diamond interchange with a single point urban interchange (SPUI). This new interchange will increase freight mobility and improve roadway safety.

Highway 10 is a Tier One freight corridor, and the proposed improvements will greatly improve freight efficiency along the corridor and surrounding regions. The new interchange configuration will also address high crash rates at the intersection of Highway 10 and Trunk Highway 47. The crash rate at this intersection is more than double the state average at this intersection and is primarily due to traffic buildup along Highway 10 resulting from inadequate exit ramp lengths.

This project will increase economic vitality in the region by providing a more effective freight route, replace a critical bridge crossing, and improve roadway safety.

We urge you to give full consideration to their application. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress