

United States Senate

September 25, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the city of Moorhead, Minnesota, I write in strong support of their application for a Resilience Improvements Grant through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant program. Moorhead and the State of Minnesota have undertaken significant work to identify and mitigate flooding throughout the city. The city is now pursuing resources to improve resiliency with the Climate Resilience Stormwater Mitigation Project (the Project).

The Project includes storm sewer replacement and road construction along three roadways in south Moorhead in response to historical extreme rainfall events and future rainfall modeling that indicate an immediate need for this project. Since impacted roads remain at high-risk of flooding and deterioration until improvements are made to the storm sewer drainage and transportation network, the project includes roadway reconstruction. Future phases of this project will allow the city to pursue additional storm sewer and resiliency-focused upgrades once the most critical flooding threats have been addressed.

If awarded, this project will substantially improve local and regional transportation network resiliency and exhibits all the factors of regional significance. This project reflects needs documented in the Moorhead Climate Change Resiliency Planning report as well as the Clay County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Project benefits will accrue to travelers, residents within the neighborhoods and the City of Moorhead as a whole. A PROTECT Grant will assist the City of Moorhead to address climate change and protect vulnerable neighborhoods.

For the reasons above, I encourage your strong consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact my staff Myles Artis by email at Myles_Artis@smith.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator