



March 3, 2026

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

Secretary Duffy:

Please consider this letter written confirmation of our full support of the Metropolitan Council's (Council) application for BUILD grant funding for completion of an Interchange Modernization Study (the Study).

This application addresses one of the region's priority planning needs. The study will assist the Council as well as the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in identifying and prioritizing improvements on existing interchanges across the planning area by examining criteria related to safety, mobility, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, agency and funding collaboration, and opportunities for innovation. The results of the Study will be used to inform decisions that will have a significant impact on regional transportation infrastructure, improving safety, access, and the quality of life for residents and visitors in the Twin Cities region.

The proposed Study is included in the approved 2026 Council's Unified Planning Work Program. It also supports USDOT's adopted plans to encourage and support local economic development, improve safety, advance reliable and affordable transportation choices, and strategically invest in transportation. The Council will be working closely with MnDOT as well as local governments in the region to gather data, identify priority locations, projects, and funding opportunities, and determine options and best practices that address current deficiencies and opportunities to modernize multiple interchanges, leading to increased safety and mobility as well as alleviating congestion throughout the Twin Cities' region.

On behalf of Dakota County, we hope you will support this project through a BUILD planning grant award. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with the Council, MnDOT, and USDOT to create a safer, more accessible, and more vibrant transportation network.

Sincerely,

Laurie Halverson
Dakota County Board Chair

County Board of Commissioners

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