March 3, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Support for the Highway 13 River, Rail and Road Initiative Project from Quentin Avenue to Nicollet Avenue 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Application

Dear Secretary Duffy:

Dakota County supports funding for the Highway 13 River, Rail, and Road Initiative Project from Highway in Savage to Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville, Minnesota from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program.

Highway 13 is used both by commuters and freight traffic and provides direct access to the Ports of Savage in Savage, statewide significant freight terminal on the Minnesota River. The Port includes a series of five river terminals along Highway 13 with both barge and rail intermodal facilities primarily shipping grain and other agricultural products. Highway 13 also serves as an important principal arterial link between two major river crossings on US Highway 169 and Interstate 35. This corridor serves the Burnsville Heart of the City downtown area and the Nicollet interchange in Burnsville includes a station for the recently opened Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit. This project will link all of these transportation modes together.

The Dakota County 2040 Transportation Plan identifies the segment of Highway 13 in Burnsville in need of mobility and freight improvements. Dakota County supports Scott County's grant application request for the Highway 13 River, Rail and Road Initiative project funding through the United States Department of Transportation's BUILD program.

Sincerely,

Laurie Halverson
Dakota County Board Chair

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