

August 28, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590M

Subject: Letter of Support for FY 2023 PROTECT Program: Moorhead Climate Resilience Stormwater Mitigation Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments' (Metro COG) support of the City of Moorhead's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program for FY 2023. Metro COG is the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fargo-Moorhead area, responsible for developing the federally recognized Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the programming of federal transportation funds within the bi-state Metro COG Planning Area, which includes the City of Moorhead and other local jurisdictions in Clay County, Minnesota.

Metro COG fully supports the City of Moorhead's submission for a Resilience Improvements Grant for the FY 2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant program. The City of Moorhead and the State of Minnesota have undertaken significant work toward identifying and mitigating flooding throughout the city. The City of Moorhead is now pursuing resources to begin resilience improvements as part of the **Climate Resilience Stormwater Mitigation Project** (the Project). Due to our extremely flat topography here in the Red River Valley, affected roads remain at high-risk of flooding and deterioration until improvements are made to the storm sewer drainage and transportation network.

The project includes storm sewer replacement and road construction along three roadways in the southern portion of Moorhead in response to historical

extreme rainfall events and future rainfall modeling that indicate an immediate need. The storm sewer expansion will accommodate the two lift stations situated along the Red River and extend westwards toward US Highway 75. The project includes roadway reconstruction to ensure future transportation resiliency. Future project phases will allow the City to pursue additional storm sewer and resiliency-based upgrades after the most critical flooding threats have been addressed.

This project reflects needs documented in the City of Moorhead's Climate Change Resiliency Planning report as well as the Clay County (Minnesota) Hazard Mitigation Plan. This project will benefit residents, businesses, and institutions within the neighborhoods, the City of Moorhead as a whole, travelers from neighboring Fargo, North Dakota and all other travelers who utilize US Highways 10 and 75. PROTECT will help the City of Moorhead to address climate change and protect vulnerable neighborhoods.

Metro COG fully supports the City of Moorhead's application for the funding of the Climate Resilience Stormwater Mitigation Project and looks forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 PROTECT funding proposal your full consideration and approval, and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 701-532-5103 or via e-mail at griffith@fmmetrocog.org.

Yours in public service,



Ben Griffith, AICP, CFM
Executive Director
FARGO-MOORHEAD METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
c: Lisa Bode, City of Moorhead