



August 30, 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 West Central Initiative (MN Economic Development Region IV), I extend my support of 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. Moorhead and the State of Minnesota have undertaken significant work toward identifying and mitigating flooding throughout the city. The City is now pursuing resources to begin resilience improvements as part of the **Climate Resilience Stormwater Mitigation Project** (the Project). 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 west 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 Moorhead Climate Change Resiliency Planning report as well as the Clay County 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, ND 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. Thank you for your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

Greg Wagner
Director of Business and Economic Development
West Central Initiative

PO Box 318
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0318

wcif.org
wci@wcif.org

(218) 739-2239
(800) 735-2239

