



Highway Department

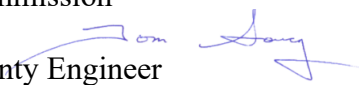
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Cass County Commission

FROM: Tom Soucy, County Engineer 

DATE: January 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Consent Agenda Item for January 21st, 2025 Cass County Commission. Letter of Support for RAISE Grant Application.

The Cass County Highway Department is once again applying for a RAISE Grant. The project is a joint application with Cass, Traill, Norman, & Clay County for 3 bridges (Nielsville, Hendrum and Georgetown) across the Red River.

One of the structures is currently closed with the remaining two load posted. Rural communities in Cass County have been subjected to lengthy detours.

Therefore, we are requesting the Commission Chairman to please sign the attached letter of support. This letter will be included in the application, along with other support letters that were sent.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Move to approve authorizing the Commission Chair to sign the RAISE Grant Letter of Support for the above mentioned project.

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Highway Department

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January 10, 2025

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Revitalizing Connections across the Red River of the North

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We respectfully request your support of a grant from the 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. Cass County, North Dakota, is partnering with Polk County, Minnesota, and requesting funding for a three-bridge-bundle to restore surface transportation across the Red River of the North. Your support to correct this transportation issue is urgently needed.

North Dakota Bridges 49-129-10.0, 49-131-28.0, and 09-142-10.0, were originally constructed with federal funds. Unsafe conditions lead to closure of Bridge 49-129-10.0, and load posting of the other two. Rural communities in Cass County and four others have been subjected to lengthy detours, decreased emergency response times and economic hardships. The current bridge infrastructure is dilapidated and has halted freight transit of goods and services and hindered the agricultural industry in both Minnesota and North Dakota.

Our goal is to restore surface transportation which will improve safety, and environmental conditions by removing lengthy detours. It will remove barriers and improve economic competitiveness and opportunity, ultimately improving the quality of life in Cass County and four others.

We urge you to invest in the Red River Valley region by funding the Revitalizing Connections across the Red River of the North application for funding in 2025. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tony Grindberg Chairman,
Cass County Commission

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