Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2026

The Honorable David Fink
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W-32
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink:

We write to express our support for the application submitted by the City of Minot, North Dakota to the National Railroad Partnership Program (NRPP) for preliminary engineering and environmental work on the proposed 27th Street Road Over Rail Grade Separation. Thank you for your consideration.

Advancing this project will significantly improve passenger rail reliability, freight mobility, and economic growth in Minot and the surrounding region. Minot is one of the most important passenger rail hubs in northern North Dakota, serving 22,680 riders in 2024 on the Amtrak Empire Builder. The proposed grade separation, located near the Minot Amtrak station at the east end of the BNSF Railway Yard, will remove an at-grade crossing that contributes to delays for passenger and freight trains as well as local motorists.

Minot is a key rail hub supporting agricultural shippers, energy producers, and manufacturers across the Upper Great Plains. The city's rail-served industrial park depends on efficient truck and freight train movements in and out of the BNSF yard. The existing crossing has long been identified in the North Dakota State Freight and Rail Plan as a priority location due to safety concerns and frequent truck-train interactions. Grade separation will reduce delays, strengthen yard fluidity, improve first- and last-mile access for industry, and support the competitiveness of Minot's growing logistics and manufacturing sectors.

Accordingly, we hope this application receives your favorable consideration, and all of North Dakota's applications receive your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact us with any updates or inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator

Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator

Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress