

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to offer our support for the Minot International Airport Access Road Project in Minot, North Dakota, which has been submitted for your consideration under the Department of Transportation's TIGER IV discretionary grant program.

As you may know, the city of Minot, the fourth largest city in North Dakota, was devastated by a historic flood in June 2011. The Souris River surpassed the record level set in 1881 by more than three and a half feet, overtopping existing levees and inundating a quarter of the city. The damage to the city was significant. More than 4,100 homes were damaged by flood waters and more than 11,000 people were forced from their homes.

At the same time the city is working to rebuild from this disaster, it is also dealing with the challenges associated with the explosion in infrastructure impacts as a result of the oil development in the Bakken Formation. The convergence of these two events has strained the city's existing infrastructure as well as its finances. To keep up with the increasing demands on infrastructure and the region's economic growth, the city is advancing the construction of a new airport terminal. In the last two years, the total number of airport passengers has increased by 112 percent. This growth trend is expected to continue, and local funding sources are unable to fully finance all of the infrastructure needed to support this expansion project.

The TIGER grant funds requested would be used for the initial phases of this expansion project, specifically the realignment and widening of the airport's main access road. The project will improve the safety of pedestrian, transit and vehicle service access, and it is critical to the region's overall economy.

As TIGER IV funding applications are evaluated, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Minot International Airport Access Road Project, which would provide many benefits to Minot and the surrounding region. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
KENT CONRAD

U.S. Senate

  
JOHN HOEVEN

U.S. Senate

  
RICK BERG

U.S. House