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February 28, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: BNSF Letter of Support – Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the Ozarks Transportation Organization to secure federal discretionary funding under the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity project. If awarded, the project will realign and expand Missouri State Highway MM from two-lanes to five-lanes.

This project will improve community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over BNSF, including accommodations for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane facility. The improvements will help manage the truck and commuter traffic along this corridor and help reduce exposure between vehicles and trains.

BNSF values our working relationship with the Ozarks Transportation Organization and is prepared to work with all involved public agencies on further development of this project, subject to satisfactory review of final engineering and entering into definitive agreements as may be required by BNSF or other project stakeholders.

BNSF appreciates your thorough review of this application and looks forward to continuing its relationship with the Ozarks Transportation Organization through this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "French Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

French Thompson
General Director – Public Infrastructure & Investments