

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 1, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I ask your careful consideration of the Nebraska Department of Transportation's (NDOT) application for Department of Transportation (DOT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) funding for the Interstate 80 (I-80) project, located between Odessa and Kearney, Nebraska.

NDOT's project will replace a rapidly deteriorating portion of I-80 that is essential to the economy of the Kearney area and the State of Nebraska. The "I-80: Odessa to Kearney" project will enhance economic growth through increased efficiency and improved ease of freight mobility. It will improve road conditions and reduce conflicts associated with freight and agricultural traffic movements. Ultimately, the project will enhance farm-to-market operations and promote economic development in rural Nebraska.

The "I-80: Odessa to Kearney" project is an important foundational project. It will improve the reliability and safety of a segment on the heaviest traveled roadway in the state, which is also an essential freight corridor for the nation's supply chain.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator