



9211 HWY 53
Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (218) 666-5698

www.kgmcontractors.com

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program Funding Application for the CSAH 100 Railroad Crossing Grade Separation Project

Dear Secretary Duffy,

KGM Contractors strongly supports St. Louis County's funding application to the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program for the CSAH 100 Railroad Crossing Grade Separation Project located in Aurora, Minnesota. This project is critical to improving safety, mobility, and economic vitality for the region.

The existing at-grade crossing on CSAH 100 (USDOT #252305T) creates frequent delays and significant safety risks for vehicles, freight, and recreational traffic. The crossing ranks in the top 20% of FRA's crash prediction system, even with active gates and signals, and creates a high-impact risk to the regional transportation system because the detour is greater than 18 miles if the crossing is closed. CSAH 100 is the primary highway that connects the cities of Aurora and Hoyt Lakes in the eastern Iron Range. These disruptions increase costs for businesses, limit access to customers and suppliers, and impact school transportation, forcing buses and families to take lengthy detours when the crossing is blocked.

This project will improve mobility and safety for the highway which supports the movement of freight, recreational vehicles (ATVs and snowmobiles), bicyclists and pedestrians. Specifically, this project will strengthen freight connectivity to major mining and industrial facilities, including the NewRange Copper Nickel project, which rely on efficient and reliable rail and highway access for transporting critical minerals. By reducing delays and ensuring transportation reliability, the project supports regional economic growth and aligns with federal priorities for supply chain resilience and energy independence. The bridge deck will include dedicated space for pedestrians, bicyclists, ATVs and snowmobiles. The Mesabi Trail is planned to be extended across this crossing in 2026. The Mesabi Trail, ATVs and snowmobiles provide a significant positive economic impact to the local economy.

We strongly urge your support and funding for this vital project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerry Abramson
President
KGM Contractors, Inc.