



March 9, 2021

Representative Connie Bernardy
563 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for regional impact of funding the BNSF Northtown Yard road extension and overpass

Dear Representative Bernardy,

Thank you for authoring [HF869](#) which provides predesign, design and engineering of an overpass spanning the Northtown Rail Yard BNSF tracks in Fridley. The North Metro Mayors Association (NMMA) recognizes the significant regional impact that funding HF869 provides.

In addition to providing a safe and convenient pedestrian crossing which will link residents west of the Yard to goods, services, and jobs east of the Yard, completion of this overpass will provide much needed congestion relief on and around I-694. Rather than utilizing I-694 to cross the yard, once this project is completed, local traffic will be able cross the tracks via the overpass thus reducing traffic on I-694 and providing congestion relief at the University and East River Road on-off ramps.

A tremendous regional and state asset, the BNSF Northtown Rail Yard is essential in successfully moving goods that help to drive Minnesota's economy. As the City of Fridley continues to invest significant funds toward the costs of this overpass project, NMMA supports Rep. Bernardy's efforts to bring the State of Minnesota alongside Fridley and the north metro region to enhance the benefit of the Yard to the city, region and state.

Representing cities with a combined population of more than 450,000 Minnesota residents, NMMA is a collaboration of 15 north metro cities plus community partners working together to encourage private and public investments in the northern suburbs. NMMA member cities include Andover, Anoka, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Dayton, Fridley, Maple Grove, Mounds View, New Brighton, New Hope, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jerry Koch
City of Coon Rapids
NMMA President

Mayor Ryan Karasek
City of Champlin
NMMA Vice-President

Mayor Kathi Hemken
City of New Hope
Former President