



Appendix L

Planning Documentation

Lead applicant

Iowa Department of Transportation

Partnering agency

Minnesota Department of Transportation

MnDOT Statewide Rail Plan 2015

Minnesota's 2015 Draft Statewide Rail Plan can be found at

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/railplan/resources.html>

Iowa DOT Challenges and Options for Improved Freight Movement in Iowa

(prepared on behalf of the Iowa Freight Advisory Council)

This document, which will be used as input in the upcoming Iowa DOT's State Freight Plan, is included as Appendix B of this application

Planning, Programming and Modal Division

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May 18, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

This letter is to confirm that the Iowa Department of Transportation's TIGER discretionary grant fund application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa, conforms to Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Rail Plan requirements.

The project is included in Iowa's 2015-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program as an illustrative project.

The project is also consistent with the goals and objectives of the 2009 Iowa Railroad System Plan which can be found at www.iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/rail.html. This project will directly support meeting the three goals of Iowa's long-range transportation plan and railroad system plan of improving safety, efficiency, and quality of life. This is achieved by supporting the following actions documented in our railroad system plan:

- **Safety:** The project will result in a shift of freight movement from highway to rail, which can result in reduction of crashes in Iowa's public roadway system.
- **Efficiency:** The project will improve the physical infrastructure of Iowa's rail system in partnership with Iowa's shippers and railroads through:
 - Building/improving rail transfer facilities
 - Building/improving rail yards, terminals, and sidings
- **Quality of Life:** This project will result in a shift of freight movement from highway to rail, which can result in a reduction of transportation-related congestion and air pollution.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. We believe this project will play a vital role in Iowa's multimodal transportation system and economic growth. Please contact me if you have any questions about the project's relationship to the STIP or Iowa's Railroad System Plan.

Sincerely,



Stuart Anderson, Director
Planning, Programming and Modal Division

SA:TN:plr