



Pete Ricketts
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

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August 29, 2016

Carlos Monje, Jr.
Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket Number DOT–OST–2016–0053, Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary – Regarding the National Multimodal Freight Network in Nebraska

Dear Acting Undersecretary Monje:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Interim National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN). It is important that state DOTs and the public take this opportunity to advise USDOT about rural freight corridors and facilities since the NMFN will be used to guide federal and state freight investment.

Nebraska is a transportation- and freight-centric state by virtue of our location, our markets and our freight transportation and logistics industry assets. Currently, the interstate system in Nebraska is the only series of highways considered as part of the interim NMFN. Interstate 80 makes up the largest portion of interim network in Nebraska, stretching from its eastern border with Iowa, to its western border with Wyoming.

Unfortunately, the interim network does not give consideration for any major north-south highway corridors in the state. This seems like an oversight since many of these north-south highway corridors service industry, agricultural and other vital freight related activities. I respectfully request that the USDOT consider the addition of critical north-south highway corridors in Nebraska such as:

- U.S. Highway 83 between the Kansas and South Dakota borders
- U.S. Highway 81 between the Kansas and South Dakota borders
- The Heartland Expressway, which is comprised of the following highways:
 - Nebraska Highway 71 between the Colorado border and Scottsbluff
 - U.S. Highway 26 between Scottsbluff and Nebraska Link 62A (L-62A)
 - L-62A
 - U.S. Highway 385 between L-62A and the South Dakota border
- U.S. Highway 275 between Fremont and Norfolk

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Through recent study and stakeholder outreach, each of these roadways have been identified as critical to freight movement in Nebraska and we appreciate your careful consideration for their addition to the NMFN.

If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KS', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Schneweis, P.E.
Director

KS:RH:z