



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



Requested Meeting Date: 4-28-26

Title of Item: BNSF Agreement BF-20524069

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
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Submitted by: John Welle	Department: Highway Department
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Presenter (Name and Title): John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer	Estimated Time Needed: 15 minutes
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Summary of Issue:

As part of the County Highway 5 reconstruction project through the Kimberly area, the new roadway alignment in the vicinity of the BNSF railroad requires a new physical location of the railroad crossing as well as an easement from BNSF for the new road location on BNSF property. In addition, the contractor that is awarded the construction contract for this project later this year will be required, by our contract, to enter into an agreement with BNSF that outlines numerous construction and administrative requirements when working on the railroad property.

The attached Agreement BF-20524069 has been developed to address all of the aforementioned items. The Grade Crossing Construction and Maintenance Agreement contains numerous requirements including payments from Aitkin County to BNSF of a \$2,500 administrative fee, a \$2,500 Temporary Construction License Fee, \$20,905 for an easement across BNSF property, and payment for a new concrete crossing surface which is estimated in Exhibit D at \$168,710. The agreement also contains the follows exhibits: Exhibit A Easement Drawings and Easement Agreement, Exhibit B Memorandum of Easement, Exhibit C Contractor Requirements, and Exhibit C-1 Agreement between BNSF and the Contractor.

The County Attorney has reviewed this agreement and has found it to be appropriate as to form and content.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Recommend motion to authorize Aitkin County Engineer to enter into Agreement BF-20524069.

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ \$194,615

Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*

\$200,000 was budgeted for right of way acquisition in 2023 and 2022 and 2025
 \$6,500,000 was budgeted for construction in 2026



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GRADE CROSSING CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

BNSF File No.: BF-20524069
Mile Post 79.673
Line Segment 27
U.S. DOT Number 982816T
Brainerd Subdivision

This Agreement ("**Agreement**"), is executed to be effective as of _____ ("**Effective Date**"), by and between **BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY**, a Delaware corporation ("**BNSF**") and **Aitkin County**, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota ("**Agency**").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, BNSF owns and operates a line of railroad in and through the town of Kimberly, State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of aiding vehicular travel and public safety, the Agency is undertaking a project to remove the existing crossing designated as CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 076238S Line Segment 27 Mile Post 79.695. Upon the removal of the aforementioned crossing, a new roadway to be known as CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T will be constructed at LS 27 MP 79.673 on a new roadway easement across the BNSF right-of-way as indicated on the Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the existing at-grade crossing known as CSAH 5, Milepost 79.695, DOT No. 076238S, Line Segment 27, Brainerd Subdivision, Twin Cities Division will be permanently closed, vacated, abandoned, and removed upon completion of construction and the placing in service of said new CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T at-grade crossing; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that the RAILROAD will receive no ascertainable benefit from the installation of advance warning signs or pavement marking stop bars; and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires BNSF to install a new crossing surface at CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T with a new concrete and rubber crossing surface; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is paying for the acquisition and installation of the new crossing surface at CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T; and



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WHEREAS, the BNSF agrees to purchase and install, at AGENCY'S sole expense, the new crossing surface described in the scope of work herein, and upon the terms and conditions set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements of the parties contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I – SCOPE OF WORK

- 1) The term "**Project**" as used herein includes any and all work related to the construction of the new CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T No. 982816T crossing and closure of U.S. D.O.T No. 076238S by Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "**Crossing**") by BNSF, more particularly described on the Exhibit A, including, but not limited to, any and all changes to telephone, telegraph, signal and electrical lines and appurtenances, temporary and permanent track work, fencing, grading, alterations to or new construction of drainage facilities, preliminary and construction engineering and contract preparation and the permanent removal, closure, vacation, and abandonment of the at-grade crossing known as CSAH 5, Milepost 79.695, U.S. D.O.T No. 076238S, Line Segment 27, Brainerd Subdivision, Twin Cities Division.

ARTICLE II – RAILROAD OBLIGATIONS

In consideration of the covenants of Agency set forth herein and the faithful performance thereof, BNSF agrees as follows:

- 1) Upon Agency's payment to BNSF of an administrative fee in the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$2,500), together with the Temporary Construction License Fee in the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$2,500), BNSF hereby grants to Agency, its successors and assigns, upon and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, a temporary non-exclusive license (hereinafter called, "Temporary Construction License") to construct the Crossing across or upon the portion of BNSF's right-of-way described further on Exhibit A-1, attached hereto and incorporated herein, excepting and reserving BNSF's rights, and the rights of any others who have obtained, or may obtain, permission or authority from BNSF, to do the following:
 - A. Operate, maintain, renew and/or relocate any and all existing railroad track or tracks, wires, pipelines and other facilities of like character upon, over or under the surface of said right-of-way;



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- B. Construct, operate, maintain, renew and/or relocate upon said right-of-way, without limitation, such facilities as the BNSF may from time to time deem appropriate;
- C. Otherwise use or operate the right-of-way as BNSF may from time to time deem appropriate.

The term of the Temporary Construction License begins on the Effective Date and ends on the earlier of (i) substantial completion of the Structure, or (ii) eighteen (18) months following the Effective Date. The Temporary Construction License and related rights given by BNSF to Agency in this provision are without warranty of title of any kind, express or implied, and no covenant of warranty of title will be implied from the use of any word or words herein contained. The Temporary Construction License is for construction of the Crossing only and shall not be used by Agency for any other purpose. Agency acknowledges and agrees that Agency shall not have the right, under the Temporary Construction License, to use the Crossing for any other purpose than construction. In the event Agency is evicted by anyone owning or claiming title to or any interest in said right-of-way, BNSF will not be liable to Agency for any damages, losses or any expenses of any nature whatsoever. The granting of similar rights to others, subsequent to the date of this Agreement, will not impair or interfere with the rights granted to Agency herein.

Upon Agency's payment to BNSF of the additional sum of Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Five and No/100 Dollars (\$20,905), such payment to be made within thirty (30) days of issuing the Notice to Proceed pursuant to Article III, Section 16 of this Agreement, and provided further that Agency is in compliance with the term and conditions of this Agreement, BNSF will grant to Agency, its successors and assigns, an easement (hereinafter called, the "Easement") to enter upon and use that portion of BNSF's right-of-way as is necessary to use and maintain the Crossing, substantially in the form of Exhibit B attached to this Agreement. If Agency fails to pay BNSF within the thirty day time period set forth in the preceding sentence, BNSF may stop construction of the Project until full payment is received by BNSF.

- 2) BNSF will furnish all labor, materials, tools, and equipment for railroad work required for the construction of the Project, such railroad work and the estimated cost thereof being as shown on Exhibit D attached hereto and made a part hereof. In the event construction on the Project has not commenced within six (6) months following the Effective Date, BNSF may, in its sole and absolute discretion, revise the cost estimates set forth in said Exhibit D. In such event, the revised cost estimates will become a part of this Agreement as though originally set forth herein. Any item of



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work incidental to the items listed on Exhibit D not specifically mentioned therein may be included as a part of this Agreement upon written approval of Agency, which approval will not be unreasonably withheld. Construction of the Project must include the following railroad work by BNSF:

- A. Procurement of materials, equipment and supplies necessary for the railroad work;
 - B. Preliminary engineering, design, and contract preparation;
 - C. Furnishing of flagging services during construction of the Project as required and set forth in further detail on Exhibit C, attached to this Agreement and made a part hereof;
 - D. Furnishing engineering and inspection as required in connection with the construction of the Project;
 - E. Removal of the existing CSAH 5 (U.S. D.O.T. No. 76238S) at-grade crossing, including removal of the warning devices, and obliteration of the crossing between the rails and two feet outside thereof;
 - F. Removal and disposal of the existing crossing surfaces from the Crossing;
 - G. Installation of two 40-foot concrete crossing surfaces complete with new rail, ties, ballast, fasteners, along with appropriate surfacing, to carry the improved roadway;
 - H. Make such changes in the alignment, location and elevation of its telephone, telegraph, signal and/or wire lines and appurtenances along, over or under the tracks, both temporary and permanent, as may become necessary by reason of the construction of the Project.
- 3) BNSF will do all railroad work set forth in Article II, Section 2 above on an **actual cost basis**, when BNSF, in its sole discretion, determines it is required by its labor agreements to perform such work with its own employees working under applicable collective bargaining agreements.
- 4) Agency agrees to reimburse BNSF for work of an emergency nature caused by Agency or Agency's contractor in connection with the Project which BNSF deems is reasonably necessary for the immediate restoration of railroad operations, or for the protection of persons or BNSF property. Such work may be performed by BNSF



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without prior approval of Agency and Agency agrees to fully reimburse BNSF for all such emergency work.

- 5) BNSF may charge Agency for insurance expenses, including self-insurance expenses, when such expenses cover the cost of Employer's Liability (including, without limitation, liability under the Federal Employer's Liability Act) in connection with the construction of the Project. Such charges will be considered part of the actual cost of the Project, regardless of the nature or amount of ultimate liability for injury, loss or death to BNSF's employees, if any.
- 6) During the construction of the Project, BNSF will send Agency progressive invoices detailing the costs of the railroad work performed by BNSF under this Agreement. Agency must reimburse BNSF for completed force-account work within thirty (30) days of the date of the invoice for such work. Upon completion of the Project, BNSF will send Agency a detailed invoice of final costs, segregated as to labor and materials for each item in the recapitulation shown on Exhibit D. Pursuant to this section and Article IV, Section 7 herein, Agency must pay the final invoice within ninety (90) days of the date of the final invoice. BNSF will assess a finance charge of .033% per day (12% per annum) on any unpaid sums or other charges due under this Agreement which are past its credit terms. The finance charge continues to accrue daily until the date payment is received by BNSF, not the date payment is made or the date postmarked on the payment. Finance charges will be assessed on delinquent sums and other charges as of the end of the month and will be reduced by amounts in dispute and any unposted payments received by the month's end. Finance charges will be noted on invoices sent to Agency under this section.

ARTICLE III – AGENCY OBLIGATIONS

In consideration of the covenants of BNSF set forth herein and the faithful performance thereof, Agency agrees as follows:

- 1) Agency must furnish to BNSF plans and specifications for the Project. Said plans (reduced size 11" x 17"), showing the plan and profile of the roadway work on BNSF right-of-way and marked as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof, must be submitted to BNSF for the development of railroad cost estimates.
- 2) Agency must make any required application and obtain all required permits and approvals for the construction of the Project.
- 3) Agency must acquire all rights of way necessary for the construction of the Project.



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- 4) Agency must make any and all arrangements, in compliance with BNSF's Utility Accommodation Manual (<http://www.bnsf.com/communities/faqs/pdf/utility.pdf>), for the installation or relocation of wire lines, pipe lines and other facilities owned by private persons, companies, corporations, political subdivisions or public utilities other than BNSF which may be necessary for the construction of the Project.

- 5) Agency must construct the Project as shown on the attached Exhibit A and do all work ("Agency's Work") provided for in the plans and specifications for the Project, except railroad work that will be performed by BNSF hereunder. Agency must furnish all labor, materials, tools and equipment for the performance of Agency's Work. The principal elements of Agency's Work are as follows:
 - A. Design and Construction of the new CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T crossing;
 - B. Installation of a pavement marking stop bar in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (hereinafter called, "MUTCD");
 - C. Installation of advance warning signs in accordance with the MUTCD
 - D. Perform all necessary grading and paving, including backfill of excavations and restoration of disturbed vegetation on BNSF's right-of-way;
 - E. Provide suitable drainage, both temporary and permanent;
 - F. Provide all barricades, lights, flagmen or traffic control devices necessary for preventing vehicular traffic from using a portion of the Crossing, during the installation of the concrete crossing surfaces;.
 - G. Construct asphalt/concrete roadway surface on approaches to each track. Roadway surface will match elevation of the Main Track crossing surface(s) and remain level to a point at least thirty (30) feet from nearest rail. Any concrete headers will be constructed no closer than 6'-0" from centerline of each track to provide for a minimum of 12'-0" opening for track and railroad crossing surface;
 - H. Provide and place a twelve (12) inch wide section of asphalt between roadway concrete headers and the new concrete crossing surfaces, including that portion of CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T located between the Main Track and the Siding Track.



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- I. Job site cleanup including removal of all construction materials, concrete debris, surplus soil, refuse, contaminated soils, asphalt debris, litter and other waste materials to the satisfaction of BNSF;
- 6) Reserved.
- 7) The Agency must have advanced railroad crossing signs and standard pavement markings in place at the crossing shown on Exhibit A (if the same are required by the MUTCD) prior to the acceptance of this Project by the Agency.
- 8) The Agency must give BNSF's Manager Public Projects written notice to proceed ("**Notice to Proceed**") with the railroad portion of the work after receipt of necessary funds for the Project. BNSF will not begin the railroad work (including, without limitation, procurement of supplies, equipment or materials) until written Notice to Proceed is received from Agency.
- 9) The Agency's Work must be performed by Agency or Agency's contractor in a manner that will not endanger or interfere with the safe and timely operations of BNSF and its facilities.
- 10) For any future inspection or maintenance, either routine or otherwise, performed by subcontractors on behalf of the Agency, Agency shall require the subcontractors to comply with the provisions of the attached Exhibit C and execute the agreement attached hereto as Exhibit C-1. Prior to performing any future maintenance with its own personnel, Agency shall: comply with all of BNSF's applicable safety rules and regulations; require any Agency employee performing maintenance to complete the safety training program at the BNSF's Internet Website "www.contractororientation.com"; notify BNSF when, pursuant to the requirements of Exhibit C, a flagger is required to be present; procure, and have approved by BNSF's Risk Management Department, Railroad Protective Liability insurance.
- 11) Agency must require its contractor(s) to notify BNSF's Roadmaster at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to requesting a BNSF flagman in accordance with the requirements of Exhibit C attached hereto. Additionally, Agency must require its contractor(s) to notify BNSF's Manager of Public Projects thirty (30) calendar days prior to commencing work on BNSF property or near BNSF tracks.
- 12) Agency must include the following provisions in any contract with its contractor(s) performing work on said Project:



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- A. The Contractor is placed on notice that fiber optic, communication and other cable lines and systems (collectively, the "Lines") owned by various telecommunications companies may be buried on BNSF's property or right-of-way. The locations of these Lines have been included on the plans based on information from the telecommunications companies. The contractor will be responsible for contacting BNSF and the telecommunications companies and notifying them of any work that may damage these Lines or facilities and/or interfere with their service. The contractor must also mark all Lines shown on the plans or marked in the field in order to verify their locations. The contractor must also use all reasonable methods when working in the BNSF right-of-way or on BNSF property to determine if any other Lines (fiber optic, cable, communication or otherwise) may exist.
- B. Failure to mark or identify these Lines will be sufficient cause for BNSF's engineering representative Dan Peltier at 763-782-3495 to stop construction at no cost to the Agency or BNSF until these items are completed.
- C. The Contractor will be responsible for the rearrangement of any facilities or Lines determined to interfere with the construction. The Contractor must cooperate fully with any telecommunications company(ies) in performing such rearrangements.
- D. In addition to the liability terms contained elsewhere in this Agreement, the contractor hereby indemnifies, defends and holds harmless BNSF for, from and against all cost, liability, and expense whatsoever (including, without limitation, attorney's fees and court costs and expenses) arising out of or in any way contributed to by any act or omission of Contractor, its subcontractors, agents and/or employees that cause or in any way or degree contribute to (1) any damage to or destruction of any Lines by Contractor, and/or its subcontractors, agents and/or employees, on BNSF's property or within BNSF's right-of-way, (2) any injury to or death of any person employed by or on behalf of any telecommunications company, and/or its contractor, agents and/or employees, on BNSF's property or within BNSF's right-of-way, and/or (3) any claim or cause of action for alleged loss of profits or revenue by, or loss of service by a customer or user of such telecommunication company(ies). **THE LIABILITY ASSUMED BY CONTRACTOR WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE FACT, IF IT IS A FACT, THAT THE DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION, INJURY, DEATH, CAUSE OF ACTION OR CLAIM WAS OCCASIONED BY OR CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF BNSF, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHERWISE, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH CLAIMS ARE PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF BNSF.**



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- 13) Agency must require compliance with the obligations set forth in this agreement, including Exhibit C and Exhibit C-1, and incorporate in each prime contract for construction of the Project, or the specifications therefor (i) the provisions set forth in Article III and IV; and (ii) the provisions set forth in Exhibit C and Exhibit C-1, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.
- 14) Except as otherwise provided below in this Section 13, all construction work performed hereunder by Agency for the Project will be pursuant to a contract or contracts to be let by Agency, and all such contracts must include the following:
- A. All work performed under such contract or contracts within the limits of BNSF's right-of-way must be performed in a good and workmanlike manner in accordance with plans and specifications approved by BNSF;
 - B. Changes or modifications during construction that affect safety or BNSF operations must be subject to BNSF's approval;
 - C. No work will be commenced within BNSF's right-of-way until each of the prime contractors employed in connection with said work must have (i) executed and delivered to BNSF an agreement in the form of Exhibit C-1, and (ii) delivered to and secured BNSF's approval of the required insurance; and
 - D. If it is in Agency's best interest, Agency may direct that the construction of the Project be done by day labor under the direction and control of Agency, or if at any time, in the opinion of Agency, the contractor has failed to prosecute with diligence the work specified in and by the terms of said contract, Agency may terminate its contract with the contractor and take control over the work and proceed to complete the same by day labor or by employing another contractor(s) provided; however, that any contractor(s) replacing the original contractor(s) must comply with the obligations in favor of BNSF set forth above and, provided further, that if such construction is performed by day labor, Agency will, at its expense, procure and maintain on behalf of BNSF the insurance required by Exhibit C-1.
 - E. To facilitate scheduling for the Project, Agency shall have its contractor give BNSF's Roadmaster 90 days advance notice of the proposed times and dates for work windows. BNSF and Agency's contractor will establish mutually agreeable work windows for the Project. BNSF has the right at any time to revise or change the work windows, due to train operations or service obligations. BNSF will not be responsible for any additional costs and expenses resulting from a change in work windows. Additional costs and expenses resulting from a change in work windows shall be accounted for in the contractor's expenses for the Project.



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- 15) Agency must advise the appropriate BNSF Manager Public Projects, in writing, of the completion date of the Project within thirty (30) days after such completion date. Additionally, Agency must notify BNSF's Manager Public Projects, in writing, of the date on which Agency and/or its Contractor will meet with BNSF for the purpose of making final inspection of the Project.
- 16) **TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, AGENCY HEREBY RELEASES, INDEMNIFIES, DEFENDS AND HOLDS HARMLESS BNSF, ITS AFFILIATED COMPANIES, PARTNERS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FOR, FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LIABILITIES, FINES, PENALTIES, COSTS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, LIENS, CAUSES OF ACTION, SUITS, DEMANDS, JUDGMENTS AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEYS' FEES) OF ANY NATURE, KIND OR DESCRIPTION OF ANY PERSON (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE EMPLOYEES OF THE PARTIES HERETO) OR ENTITY DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ARISING OUT OF, RESULTING FROM OR RELATED TO (IN WHOLE OR IN PART) (I) THE USE, OCCUPANCY OR PRESENCE OF AGENCY, ITS CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS IN, ON, OR ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE, (II) THE PERFORMANCE, OR FAILURE TO PERFORM BY THE AGENCY, ITS CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, EMPLOYEES, OR AGENTS, ITS WORK OR ANY OBLIGATION UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, (III) THE SOLE OR CONTRIBUTING ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF AGENCY, ITS CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, EMPLOYEES, OR AGENTS IN, ON, OR ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE, (IV) AGENCY'S BREACH OF THE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION LICENSE OR EASEMENT GRANTED TO AGENCY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE II OF THIS AGREEMENT, (V) ANY RIGHTS OR INTERESTS GRANTED TO AGENCY PURSUANT TO THE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION LICENSE OR EASEMENT DISCUSSED IN ARTICLE II OF THIS AGREEMENT, (VI) AGENCY'S OCCUPATION AND USE OF BNSF'S PROPERTY OR RIGHT-OF-WAY, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, SUBSEQUENT MAINTENANCE OF THE STRUCTURE BY AGENCY, OR (VII) AN ACT OR OMISSION OF AGENCY OR ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, INVITEES, EMPLOYEES OR CONTRACTORS OR ANYONE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY ANY OF THEM, OR ANYONE THEY CONTROL OR EXERCISE CONTROL OVER. THE LIABILITY ASSUMED BY AGENCY WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE FACT, IF IT IS A FACT, THAT THE DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION, INJURY OR DEATH WAS OCCASIONED BY OR CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF BNSF, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHERWISE, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH CLAIMS ARE**



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PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF BNSF.

- 17) Agency must take all necessary actions to permanently close, vacate, and abandon, the roadways crossing the right of way known as CSAH 5, Milepost 79.695, U.S. D.O.T No. 076238S, Line Segment 27, Brainerd Subdivision, Twin Cities Division prior to the start of construction of said new CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T at-grade crossing but in no event later than 30 days from the in service date of the new CSAH 5 U.S. D.O.T. No. 982816T at-grade crossing. Agency shall provide written documentation to BNSF of such actions within (10) days of such vacation and abandonment.
- 18) Agency must perform all necessary work to obtain the permanent closure, vacation, and removal of the at-grade crossing known as CSAH 5, Milepost 79.695, U.S. D.O.T No. 076238S, Line Segment 27, Brainerd Subdivision, Twin Cities Division across BNSF's right-of-way and must barricade the road approaches or restore the natural ditch line within 3 days of opening of the new at-grade crossing to vehicular traffic. BNSF will cooperate with Agency to achieve the closures and vacations and will remove the crossing surface within its right-of-way. If Agency's work for the closure and vacation is not completed after 3 days of opening the new at-grade crossing, Agency authorizes BNSF to complete the necessary closure work, at the Agency's expense. Agency agrees to fully reimburse BNSF for all such work.

ARTICLE IV – JOINT OBLIGATIONS

IN CONSIDERATION of the premises, the parties hereto mutually agree to the following:

- 1) All work contemplated in this Agreement must be performed in a good and workmanlike manner and each portion must be promptly commenced by the party obligated hereunder to perform the same and thereafter diligently prosecuted to conclusion in its logical order and sequence. Furthermore, any changes or modifications during construction which affect BNSF will be subject to BNSF's approval prior to the commencement of any such changes or modifications.
- 2) The work hereunder must be done in accordance with the Exhibit A and the detailed plans and specifications approved by BNSF.
- 3) Agency must require its contractor(s) to reasonably adhere to the Project's construction schedule for all Project work. The parties hereto mutually agree that BNSF's failure to complete the railroad work in accordance with the construction schedule due to inclement weather or unforeseen railroad emergencies will not constitute a breach of this Agreement by BNSF and will not subject BNSF to any



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liability. Regardless of the requirements of the construction schedule, BNSF reserves the right to reallocate the labor forces assigned to complete the railroad work in the event of an emergency to provide for the immediate restoration of railroad operations of either BNSF or its related railroads, or to protect persons or property on or near any BNSF owned property. BNSF will not be liable for any additional costs or expenses resulting from any such reallocation of its labor forces. The parties mutually agree that any reallocation of labor forces by BNSF pursuant to this provision and any direct or indirect consequences or costs resulting from any such reallocation will not constitute a breach of this Agreement by BNSF.

- 4) BNSF will have the right to stop construction work on the Project if any of the following events take place: (i) Agency (or any of its contractors) performs the Project work in a manner contrary to the plans and specifications approved by BNSF; (ii) Agency (or any of its contractors), in BNSF's opinion, prosecutes the Project work in a manner that is hazardous to BNSF property, facilities or the safe and expeditious movement of railroad traffic; (iii) the insurance described in the attached Exhibit C-1 is canceled during the course of the Project; or (iv) Agency fails to pay BNSF for the Temporary Construction License or the Easement pursuant to Article II, Section 1 of this Agreement. The work stoppage will continue until all necessary actions are taken by Agency or its contractor to rectify the situation to the satisfaction of BNSF's Division Engineer or until proof of additional insurance has been delivered to and accepted by BNSF. In the event of a breach of (i) this Agreement, (ii) the Temporary Construction License, or (iii) the Easement, BNSF may immediately terminate the Temporary Construction License or the Easement. Any such work stoppage under this provision will not give rise to any liability on the part of BNSF. BNSF's right to stop the work is in addition to any other rights BNSF may have including, but not limited to, actions or suits for damages or lost profits. In the event that BNSF desires to stop construction work on the Project, BNSF agrees to immediately notify the following individual in writing:

John Welle
Aitkin County Engineer
1211 Air Park Drive
Aitkin, MN 56431

- 5) Agency must supervise and inspect the operations of all Agency contractors to ensure compliance with the plans and specifications approved by BNSF, the terms of this Agreement and all safety requirements of BNSF. If BNSF determines that proper supervision and inspection are not being performed by Agency personnel at any time during construction of the Project, BNSF has the right to stop construction (within or adjacent to its operating right-of-way). Construction of the Project will not proceed



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until Agency corrects the situation to BNSF's reasonable satisfaction. If BNSF feels the situation is not being corrected in an expeditious manner, BNSF will immediately notify John Welle, for appropriate corrective action.

- 6) Pursuant to this section and Article II, Section 6 herein, Agency must reimburse BNSF in full for the **actual costs** of all work performed by BNSF under this Agreement (including taxes, such as applicable sales and use taxes, business and occupation taxes, and similar taxes), as set forth in Article IV, Section 6 herein.
- 7) All expenses detailed in statements sent to Agency pursuant to Article II, Section 6 herein will comply with the terms and provisions of the Title 23 U.S. Code, Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, and the Federal-Aid Policy Guide, U.S. Department of Transportation, as amended from time to time, which manual is hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement by reference. The parties mutually agree that BNSF's preliminary engineering, design, and contract preparation costs described in Article II, Section 2 herein are part of the costs of the Project even though such work may have preceded the date of this Agreement.
- 8) The construction of the Project will not commence until Agency gives BNSF's Manager Public Projects thirty (30) days prior written notice of such commencement. The commencement notice will reference BNSF's file number BF-20524069 and D.O.T. Crossing No. 982816T and must state the time that construction activities will begin.
- 9) In addition to the terms and conditions set forth elsewhere in this Agreement, BNSF and the Agency agree to the following terms upon completion of construction of the Project:
 - A. Agency will own and be fully responsible for repairs, maintenance, future construction or reconstruction of the CSAH 5 roadway, including the portion of roadway located between the tracks.
 - B. Agency will maintain the elevation of the CSAH 5 roadway approaches to match the elevation on the railroad track crossing surfaces and to be no more than three (3) inches above or six (6) inches below top-of-rail elevation at a distance measured thirty (30) feet from the nearest rail.
 - C. Agency will maintain the advanced railroad crossing warning signs and pavement markings and agrees to hold harmless and indemnify BNSF for any claims, damages or losses, in whole or in part, caused by or due to the Agency's failure to maintain the advanced warning signs and markings or other requirements of the MUTCD.



Contract Number: BF-20524069

- D. Agency will do nothing and permit nothing to be done in the maintenance of the CSAH 5 roadway, which will interfere with or endanger facilities of BNSF.
 - E. It is expressly understood by Agency and BNSF that any right to install utilities will be governed by a separate permit or license agreement between the parties hereto.
 - F. BNSF will maintain the new crossing surfaces, from end-of-tie to end-of-tie, in proper condition at the expense of Agency.
 - G. Notwithstanding the preceding provision, if any regulations, ordinances, acts, rules or other laws subsequently passed or amended by the Agency or any other governmental or legislative authority increase the Agency's portion of maintenance cost under this Agreement, BNSF will receive the benefit of any such regulations, ordinances, acts, rules or other laws and the Agency's increased portion of maintenance costs will be incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.
- 10)** Agency must notify and obtain prior authorization from BNSF's Manager of Public Projects before entering BNSF's right-of-way for **Inspection and Maintenance** purposes and the BNSF Manager of Public Projects will determine if flagging is required. If the construction work hereunder is contracted, Agency must require its prime contractor(s) to comply with the obligations set forth in Exhibit C and Exhibit C-1, as the same may be revised from time to time. Agency will be responsible for its contractor(s) compliance with such obligations.
- 11)** Any books, papers, records and accounts of the parties hereto relating to the work hereunder or the costs or expenses for labor and material connected with the construction will at all reasonable times be open to inspection and audit by the agents and authorized representatives of the parties hereto, as well as the State of Minnesota and the Federal Highway Administration, for a period of one (1) year from the date of the final BNSF invoice under this Agreement.
- 12)** The covenants and provisions of this Agreement are binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the parties hereto. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, neither party hereto may assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the other party.



Contract Number: BF-20524069

- 13) In the event construction of the Project does not commence within 24 months of the Effective Date, this Agreement will become null and void.
- 14) Neither termination nor expiration of this Agreement will release either party from any liability or obligation under this Agreement, whether of indemnity or otherwise, resulting from any acts, omissions or events happening prior to the date of termination or expiration.
- 15) To the maximum extent possible, each provision of this Agreement will be interpreted in such a manner as to be effective and valid under applicable law. If any provision of this Agreement is prohibited by, or held to be invalid under, applicable law, such provision will be ineffective solely to the extent of such prohibition or invalidity and the remainder of the provision will be enforceable.
- 16) This Agreement (including exhibits and other documents, manuals, etc. incorporated herein) is the full and complete agreement between BNSF and Agency with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes any and all other prior agreements between the parties hereto.
- 17) Any notice provided for herein or concerning this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed sufficiently given when sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the parties at the following addresses:

BNSF: BNSF's Manager Public Projects

 80 44th Ave NE

 Minneapolis, MN 55421

Agency: Aitkin County
 1211 Air Park Drive

 Aitkin, MN 56431

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS



Contract Number: BF-20524069

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed and attested by its duly qualified and authorized officials as of the day and year first above written.

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

WITNESS:

**AGENCY
AITKIN COUNTY**

WITNESS:

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

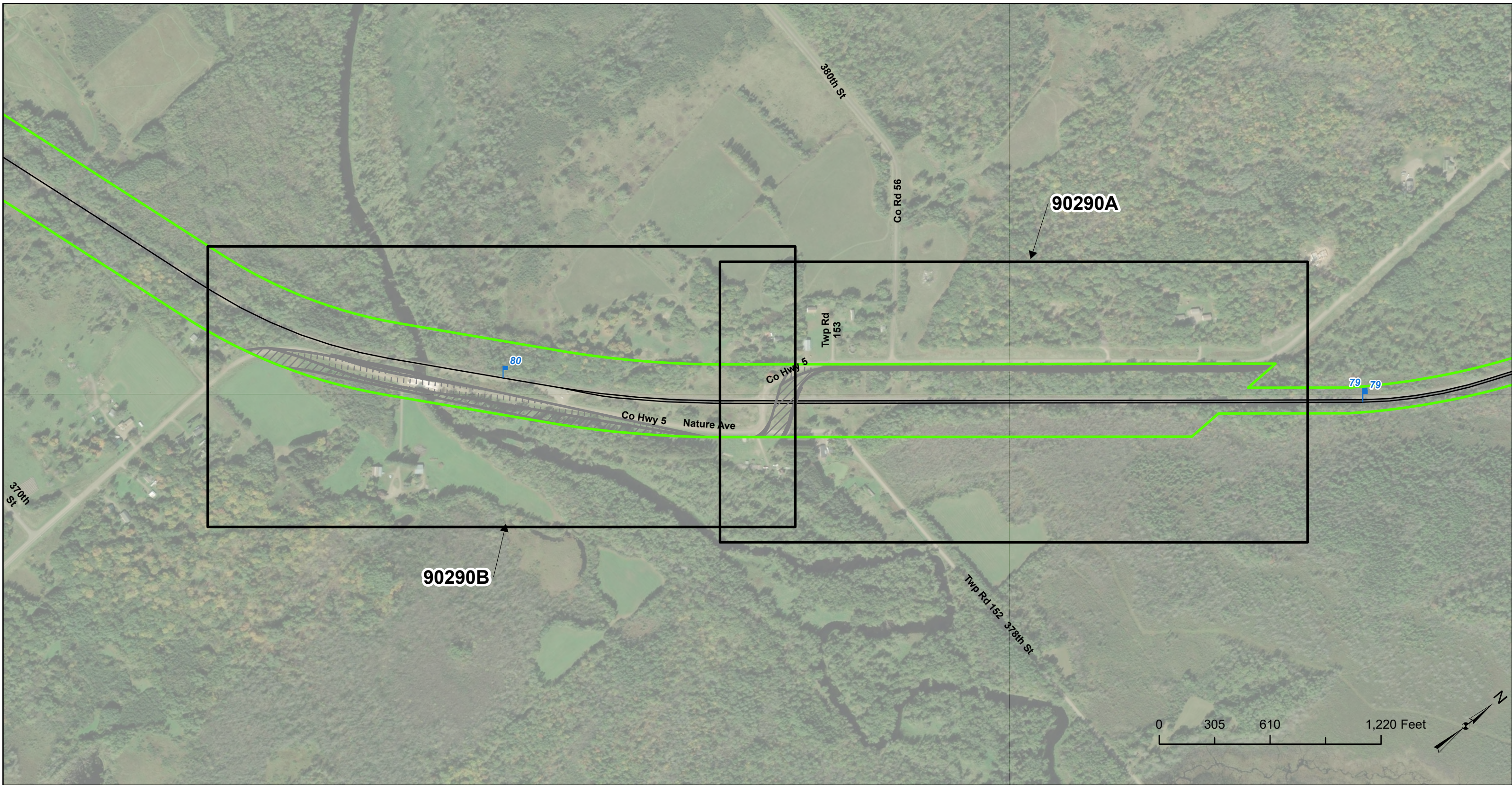
Title: _____



Contract Number: BF-20524069

Exhibit A

Exhibit A-1



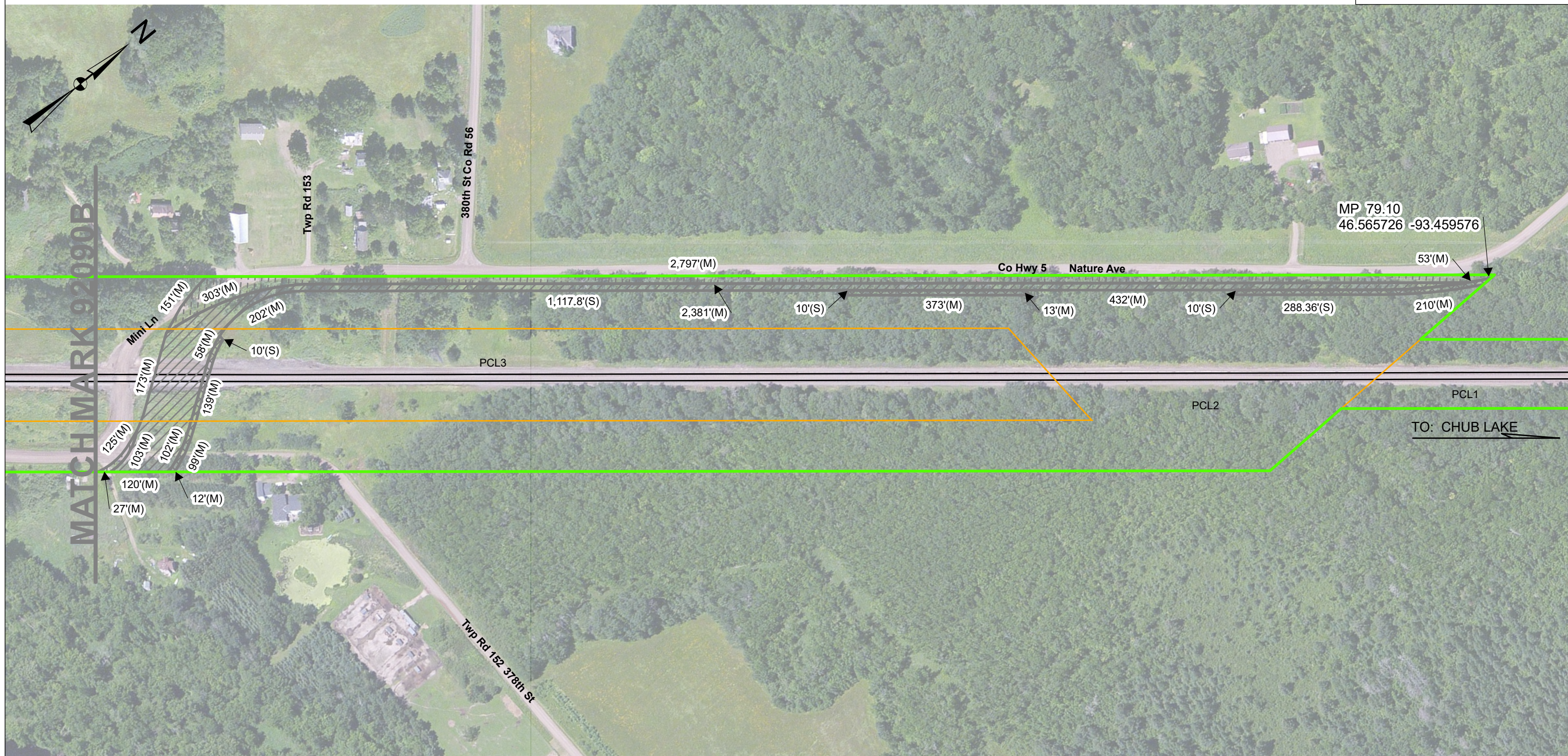
KIMBERLY, MN



SCALE: 1:2,400

JLL TI #: -
 BW Proj. No.: 12196.003
 MAP REFERENCE:
 STA. = s51021
 R/W = -

This map used by BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY in the ordinary course of business, but it is subject to audit and should be used only with the expressed understanding the BNSF make no representations whatsoever about the quality, accuracy, errors or omissions relating to this map.



TO: AITKIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
 AT: KIMBERLY
 AITKIN COUNTY,
 MN

- LEGEND:**
- PERMANENT EASEMENT
 - TEMPORARY EASEMENT
 - EXISTING COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY
 - RIGHT OF WAY LINE
 - PARCEL LINES
 - TRACK



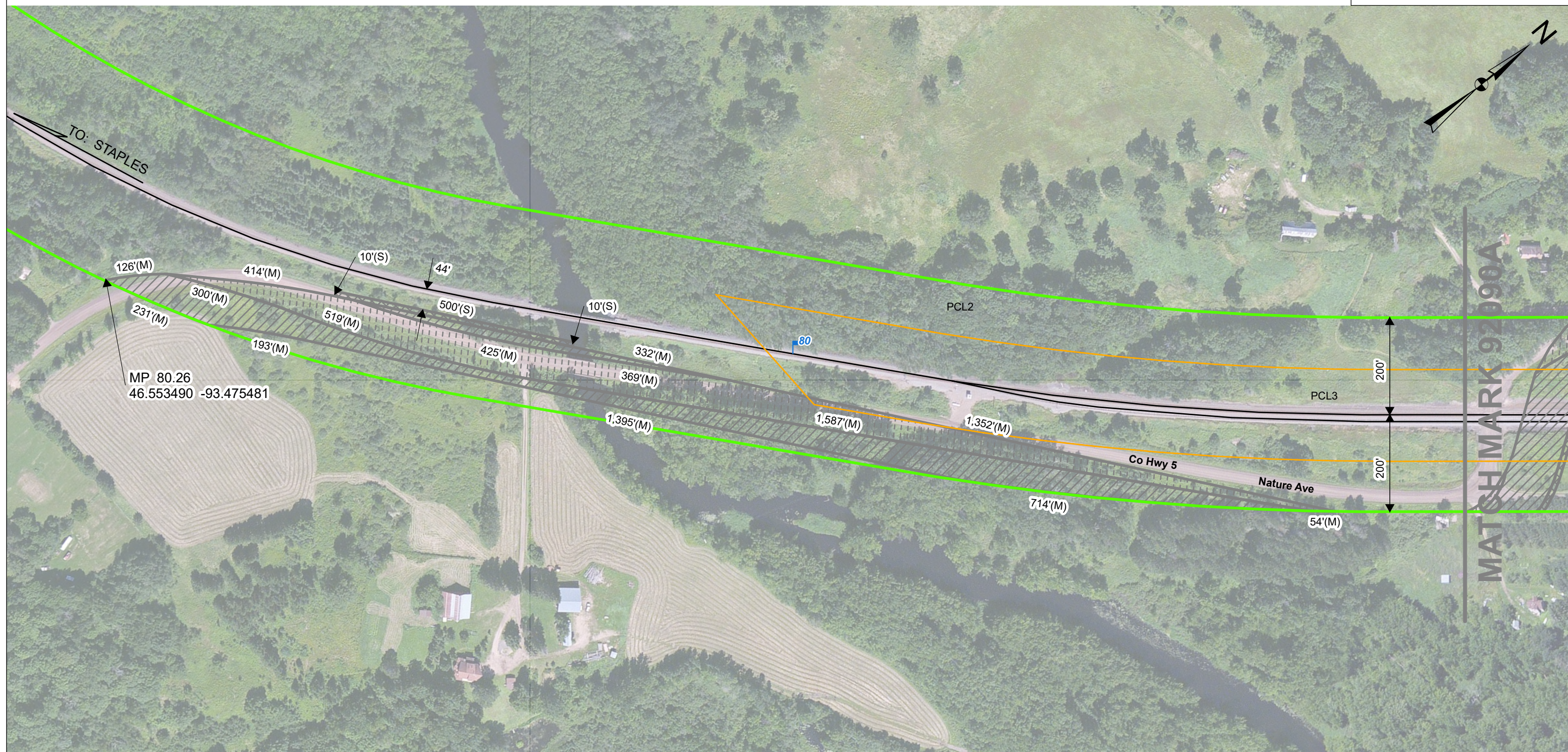
MEASUREMENTS BASED ON PROVIDED SURVEYS
 (S) MEASUREMENTS TAKEN OFF SURVEY
 (M) MEASUREMENT

TWIN CITIES DIVISION
 BRAINERD SUBDIVISION - L.S. 0027-6
 VAL.SEC. 69074
 NP RY MN-12, MAP 16
 SEC. 11,14, T47N, R25W 4PM
 DATE: 4/8/2026
 MP 79.10-80.26

SCALE: 1:2,400

JLL TI #: -
 BW Proj. No.: 12196.003
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This map used by BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY in the ordinary course of business, but it is subject to audit and should be used only with the expressed understanding the BNSF make no representations whatsoever about the quality, accuracy, errors or omissions relating to this map.



TO: AITKIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
 AT: KIMBERLY
 AITKIN COUNTY,
 MN

- LEGEND:**
- PERMANENT EASEMENT
 - TEMPORARY EASEMENT
 - EXISTING COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY
 - RIGHT OF WAY LINE
 - PARCEL LINES
 - TRACK



MEASUREMENTS BASED ON PROVIDED SURVEYS
 (S) MEASUREMENTS TAKEN OFF SURVEY
 (M) MEASUREMENT

TWIN CITIES DIVISION
 BRAINERD SUBDIVISION - L.S. 0027-6
 VAL.SEC. 69074
 NP RY MN-12, MAP 16
 SEC. 11,14, T47N, R25W 4PM
 DATE: 4/8/2026
 MP 79.10-80.26

**EASEMENT AGREEMENT
FOR At Grade Crossing
(C&M Agreement)**

THIS EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR At Grade Crossing ("Easement Agreement") is made and entered into as of the _____ day of _____ 2026 ("**Effective Date**"), by and between **BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY**, a Delaware corporation ("**Grantor**"), and **AITKIN COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota ("**Grantee**").

A. Grantor owns or controls certain real property situated at or near the vicinity of Kimberly, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota, at Railroad Line Segment 27 Mile Post 80.26, as described or depicted on **Exhibit "A"** attached hereto and made a part hereof (the "**Premises**").

B. Grantor and Grantee have entered into that certain Construction and Maintenance Agreement dated as of _____ concerning improvements on or near the Premises (the "**C&M Agreement**").

C. Grantee has requested that Grantor grant to Grantee an easement over the Premises for the Easement Purpose (as defined below).

D. Grantor has agreed to grant Grantee such easement, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Easement and in the C&M Agreement incorporated herein as if fully set forth in this instrument which terms shall be in full force and effect for purposes of this Easement even if the C&M Agreement is, for whatever reason, no longer in effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing recitals which are incorporated herein, the mutual promises contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

Section 1 Granting of Easement.

1.1 Easement Purpose. The "**Easement Purpose**" shall be for the purposes set forth in the C&M Agreement. Any improvements to be constructed in connection with the Easement Purpose are referred to herein as "**Improvements**" and shall be constructed, located, configured and maintained by Grantee in strict accordance with the terms of this Easement Agreement and the C&M Agreement.

1.2 Grant. Grantor does hereby grant unto Grantee a non-exclusive easement ("**Easement**") over the Premises for the Easement Purpose and for no other purpose. The Easement is granted subject to any and all restrictions, covenants, easements, licenses, permits, leases and other encumbrances of whatsoever nature whether or not of record, if any, relating to the Premises and subject to all with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, ordinances, restrictions, covenants and court or administrative decisions and orders, including Environmental Laws (defined below) and zoning laws (collectively, "**Laws**"). Grantor may not make any alterations or improvements or perform any maintenance or repair activities within the Premises except in accordance with the terms and conditions of the C&M Agreement.

1.3 Reservations by Grantor. Grantor excepts and reserves the right, to be exercised by Grantor and any other parties who may obtain written permission or authority from Grantor:

- (a) to install, construct, maintain, renew, repair, replace, use, operate, change, modify and relocate any existing pipe, power, communication, cable, or utility lines and appurtenances and other facilities or structures of like character (collectively, "**Lines**") upon, over, under or across the Premises;
- (b) to install, construct, maintain, renew, repair, replace, use, operate, change, modify and relocate any tracks or additional facilities or structures upon, over, under or across the Premises; and

- (c) to use the Premises in any manner as the Grantor in its sole discretion deems appropriate, provided Grantor uses all commercially reasonable efforts to avoid material interference with the use of the Premises by Grantee for the Easement Purpose.

Section 2 Term of Easement. The term of the Permanent Easement, unless sooner terminated under provisions of this Easement Agreement, shall be perpetual. The term of the Temporary Easement, unless sooner terminated, shall be for a period of 18 months.

Section 3 No Warranty of Any Conditions of the Premises. Grantee acknowledges that Grantor has made no representation whatsoever to Grantee concerning the state or condition of the Premises, or any personal property located thereon, or the nature or extent of Grantor's ownership interest in the Premises. Grantee has not relied on any statement or declaration of Grantor, oral or in writing, as an inducement to entering into this Easement Agreement, other than as set forth herein. GRANTOR HEREBY DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE DESIGN OR CONDITION OF ANY PROPERTY PRESENT ON OR CONSTITUTING THE PREMISES, ITS MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE, THE QUALITY OF THE MATERIAL OR WORKMANSHIP OF ANY SUCH PROPERTY, OR THE CONFORMITY OF ANY SUCH PROPERTY TO ITS INTENDED USES. GRANTOR SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE TO GRANTEE OR ANY OF GRANTEE'S CONTRACTORS FOR ANY DAMAGES RELATING TO THE DESIGN, CONDITION, QUALITY, SAFETY, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF ANY PROPERTY PRESENT ON OR CONSTITUTING THE PREMISES, OR THE CONFORMITY OF ANY SUCH PROPERTY TO ITS INTENDED USES. GRANTEE ACCEPTS ALL RIGHTS GRANTED UNDER THIS EASEMENT AGREEMENT IN THE PREMISES IN AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" AND "WITH ALL FAULTS" CONDITION, INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION, AND SUBJECT TO ALL LIMITATIONS ON GRANTOR'S RIGHTS, INTERESTS AND TITLE TO THE PREMISES. Grantee has inspected or will inspect the Premises, and enters upon Grantor's rail corridor and property with knowledge of its physical condition and the danger inherent in Grantor's rail operations on or near the Premises. Grantee acknowledges that this Easement Agreement does not contain any implied warranties that Grantee or Grantee's Contractors (as hereinafter defined) can successfully construct or operate the Improvements.

Section 4 Nature of Grantor's Interest in the Premises. GRANTOR DOES NOT WARRANT ITS TITLE TO THE PREMISES NOR UNDERTAKE TO DEFEND GRANTEE IN THE PEACEABLE POSSESSION OR USE THEREOF. NO COVENANT OF QUIET ENJOYMENT IS MADE. In case of the eviction of Grantee by anyone owning or claiming title to or any interest in the Premises, or by the abandonment by Grantor of the affected rail corridor, Grantor shall not be liable to refund Grantee any compensation paid hereunder.

Section 5 Improvements. Grantee shall take, in a timely manner, all actions necessary and proper to the lawful establishment, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Improvements, including such actions as may be necessary to obtain any required permits, approvals or authorizations from applicable governmental authorities. Any and all cuts and fills, excavations or embankments necessary in the construction, maintenance, or future alteration of the Improvements shall be made and maintained in such manner, form and extent as will provide adequate drainage of and from the adjoining lands and premises of the Grantor; and wherever any such fill or embankment shall or may obstruct the natural and pre-existing drainage from such lands and premises of the Grantor, the Grantee shall construct and maintain such culverts or drains as may be requisite to preserve such natural and pre-existing drainage, and shall also wherever necessary, construct extensions of existing drains, culverts or ditches through or along the premises of the Grantor, such extensions to be of adequate sectional dimensions to preserve the present flowage of drainage or other waters, and of materials and workmanship equally as good as those now existing. In the event any construction, repair, maintenance, work or other use of the Premises by Grantee will affect any Lines, fences, buildings, improvements or other facilities (collectively, "**Other Improvements**"), Grantee will be responsible at Grantee's sole risk to locate and make any adjustments necessary to such Other Improvements. Grantee must contact the owner(s) of the Other Improvements notifying them of any work that may damage these Other Improvements and/or interfere with their service and obtain the owner's written approval prior to so affecting the Other Improvements. Grantee must mark all Other Improvements on the Plans and Specifications and mark such Other Improvements in the field in order to verify their locations. Grantee must also use all reasonable methods when working on or near Grantor property to determine if any Other Improvements (fiber optic, cable, communication or otherwise) may exist. The Grantee agrees to keep the above-described premises free and clear from combustible materials and to cut and remove or cause to be cut

and removed at its sole expense all weeds and vegetation on said premises, said work of cutting and removal to be done at such times and with such frequency as to comply with Grantee and local laws and regulations and abate any and all hazard of fire.

Section 6 Taxes and Recording Fees. Grantee shall pay when due any taxes, assessments or other charges (collectively, "**Taxes**") levied or assessed upon the Improvements by any governmental or quasi-governmental body or any Taxes levied or assessed against Grantor or the Premises that are attributable to the Improvements. Grantee agrees to purchase, affix and cancel any and all documentary stamps in the amount prescribed by statute, and to pay any and all required transfer taxes, excise taxes and any and all fees incidental to recordation of the Memorandum of Easement. In the event of Grantee's failure to do so, if Grantor shall become obligated to do so, Grantee shall be liable for all costs, expenses and judgments to or against Grantor, including all of Grantor's legal fees and expenses.

Section 7 Environmental.

7.1 Compliance with Environmental Laws. Grantee shall strictly comply with all Environmental Laws (as defined below). Grantee shall not maintain a "treatment," "storage," "transfer" or "disposal" facility, or "underground storage tank," as those terms are defined by Environmental Laws, on the Premises. Grantee shall not handle, transport, release or suffer the release of Hazardous Materials (as defined below) on or about the Premises.

7.2 Notice of Release. Grantee shall give Grantor immediate notice to Grantor's Resource Operations Center at (800) 832-5452 of any release of Hazardous Materials on, from, or affecting the Premises. Grantee shall use its best efforts to immediately respond to any release on or from the Premises. Any violation of Environmental Laws or any inspection or inquiry by governmental authorities charged with enforcing Environmental Laws with respect to Grantee's use of the Premises must be immediately reported to Grantor at EnvironmentalLeases@bnsf.com. Grantee also shall give Grantor prompt notice of all measures undertaken on behalf of Grantee to investigate, remediate, respond to or otherwise cure a release or violation.

7.3 Remediation of Release. In the event that Grantor has notice from Grantee or otherwise of a release or violation of Environmental Laws which occurred or may occur during the term of this Easement Agreement, Grantor may require Grantee, at Grantee's sole risk and expense, to take timely measures to investigate, remediate, respond to or otherwise cure such release or violation affecting the Premises.

7.4 Soils and Materials Management.

(a) If during the construction or subsequent maintenance of the Improvements or any other soil-disturbing activities, soils or other materials considered to be environmentally impacted are encountered, Grantee will stop work immediately and notify Grantor. After consultation with Grantor, Grantee shall, at Grantee's expense, characterize any such impacted soils. Upon receiving sampling results, Grantee shall, at Grantee's expense in consultation with Grantor, manage, remove, and/or dispose any such impacted soils offsite at an appropriately-licensed facility in accordance with Environmental Laws. Soil characterization and applicable disposal requirements, shall be in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local Environmental Laws or in consultation with an agency having the capacity and authority to make such a determination.

(b) All soils and materials to be removed from the Grantor's property or right of way must be properly characterized, managed, transported, and disposed at an appropriately-licensed facility, at Grantee's expense, in accordance with all Environmental Laws. Grantee shall be the "Generator" of any and all such materials and waste, as such term is defined in Environmental Laws.

(c) All fill materials to be imported to Grantor's property shall be certified clean fill or from a BNSF-approved source.

7.5 Preventative Measures. Grantee shall promptly report to Grantor in writing any conditions or activities upon the Premises known to Grantee which create a risk of harm to persons, property or the environment and shall take all reasonable actions necessary to prevent injury to persons or property arising out of such conditions or activities; provided, however, that Grantee's reporting to Grantor shall not relieve Grantee of any

obligation whatsoever imposed on it by this Easement Agreement. Grantee shall promptly respond to Grantor's request for information regarding said conditions or activities.

7.6 Evidence of Compliance. Upon request by Grantor, Grantee agrees to furnish Grantor with proof satisfactory to Grantor that Grantee is in compliance with this **Section 7**. Should Grantee not comply fully with obligations of this **Section 7**, notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision hereof, Grantor may, at its option, terminate this Easement Agreement by serving five (5) days' notice of termination upon Grantee. Upon termination, Grantee shall remove the Improvements and restore the Premises as provided in **Section 9**.

7.7 Notwithstanding anything in this Section 7, the parties agree that Grantor has no duty or obligation to monitor Grantee's use of the Premises to determine Grantee's compliance with Environmental Laws, it being solely Grantee's responsibility to ensure that Grantee's use of the Premises is compliant. Neither the exercise nor the failure by Grantor to exercise any rights granted in this Section will alter the liability allocation provided by this Easement Agreement.

7.8 "Environmental Law(s)" shall mean any federal, state, local, or tribal law, statute, ordinance, code, rule, regulation, policy, common law, license, authorization, decision, order, or injunction which pertains to health, safety, any Hazardous Material, or the environment (including but not limited to ground, air, water, or noise pollution or contamination, and underground or above-ground tanks) and shall include, without limitation, CERCLA 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq.; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. §6901 et seq., CERCLA; the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. §5101 et seq.; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.; the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.; the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.; the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §300f et seq.; the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.; the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. 136 to 136y; the Oil Pollution Act, 33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.; and the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.; all as have been amended from time to time, and any other federal, state, local, or tribal environmental requirements, together with all rules, regulations, orders, and decrees now or hereafter promulgated under any of the foregoing, as any of the foregoing now exist or may be changed or amended or come into effect in the future.

7.9 "Hazardous Material(s)" shall include but shall not be limited to any substance, material, or waste that is regulated by any Environmental Law or otherwise regulated by any federal, state, local, or tribal governmental authority because of toxic, flammable, explosive, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or other properties that may be hazardous to human health or the environment, including without limitation asbestos and asbestos-containing materials, radon, petroleum and petroleum products, urea formaldehyde foam insulation, methane, lead-based paint, polychlorinated biphenyl compounds, hydrocarbons or like substances and their additives or constituents, pesticides, agricultural chemicals, and any other special, toxic, or hazardous (i) substances, (ii) materials, or (iii) wastes of any kind, including without limitation those now or hereafter defined, determined, or identified as "hazardous chemicals", "hazardous substances," "hazardous materials," "toxic substances," or "hazardous wastes" in any Environmental Law.

Section 8 Default and Termination.

8.1 Grantor's Performance Rights. If at any time Grantee, or Grantee's Contractors, fails to properly perform its obligations under this Easement Agreement, Grantor, in its sole discretion, may: (i) seek specific performance of the unperformed obligations, or (ii) at Grantee's sole cost, may arrange for the performance of such work as Grantor deems necessary for the safety of its rail operations, activities and property, or to avoid or remove any interference with the activities or property of Grantor, or anyone or anything present on the rail corridor or property with the authority or permission of Grantor. Grantee shall promptly reimburse Grantor for all costs of work performed on Grantee's behalf upon receipt of an invoice for such costs. Grantor's failure to perform any obligations of Grantee or Grantee's Contractors shall not alter the liability allocation set forth in this Easement Agreement.

8.2 Abandonment. Grantor may, at its option, terminate this Easement Agreement by serving five (5) days' notice in writing upon Grantee if Grantee should abandon or cease to use the Premises for the Easement Purpose. Any waiver by Grantor of any default or defaults shall not constitute a waiver of the right to terminate this Easement Agreement for any subsequent default or defaults, nor shall any such waiver in any way affect Grantor's ability to enforce any section of this Easement Agreement.

8.3 Effect of Termination or Expiration. Neither termination nor expiration will release Grantee from any liability or obligation under this Easement, whether of indemnity or otherwise, resulting from any acts, omissions or events happening prior to the date of termination or expiration, or, if later, the date the Premises are restored as required by **Section 9**.

8.4 Non-exclusive Remedies. The remedies set forth in this **Section 8** shall be in addition to, and not in limitation of, any other remedies that Grantor may have under the C&M Agreement, at law or in equity.

Section 9 Surrender of Premises.

9.1 Removal of Improvements and Restoration. Upon termination of this Easement Agreement, whether by abandonment of the Easement or by the exercise of Grantor's termination rights hereunder, Grantee shall, at its sole cost and expense, immediately perform the following:

- (a) remove all or such portion of Grantee's Improvements and all appurtenances thereto from the Premises, as Grantor directs at Grantor's sole discretion;
- (b) repair and restore any damage to the Premises arising from, growing out of, or connected with Grantee's use of the Premises, including, but not limited to, environmental damage;
- (c) remedy any unsafe conditions on the Premises created or aggravated by Grantee; and
- (d) leave the Premises in the condition which existed as of the Effective Date.

9.2 Limited License for Entry. If this Easement Agreement is terminated, Grantor may direct Grantee to undertake one or more of the actions set forth above, at Grantee's sole cost, in which case Grantee shall have a limited license to enter upon the Premises to the extent necessary to undertake the actions directed by Grantor. The terms of this limited license include all of Grantee's obligations under this Easement Agreement. Termination will not release Grantee from any liability or obligation under this Easement Agreement, whether of indemnity or otherwise, resulting from any acts, omissions or events happening prior to the date of termination, or, if later, the date when Grantee's Improvements are removed and the Premises are restored to the condition that existed as of the Effective Date. If Grantee fails to surrender the Premises to Grantor upon any termination of the Easement, all liabilities and obligations of Grantee hereunder shall continue in effect until the Premises are surrendered.

Section 10 Liens. Grantee shall promptly pay and discharge any and all liens arising out of any construction, alterations or repairs done, suffered or permitted to be done by Grantee on the Premises or attributable to Taxes that are the responsibility of Grantee pursuant to **Section 6**. Grantor is hereby authorized to post any notices or take any other action upon or with respect to the Premises that is or may be permitted by Law to prevent the attachment of any such liens to any portion of the Premises; provided, however, that failure of Grantor to take any such action shall not relieve Grantee of any obligation or liability under this **Section 10** or any other section of this Easement Agreement.

Section 11 Tax Exchange. Grantor may assign its rights (but not its obligations) under this Easement Agreement to Goldfinch Exchange Company LLC, an exchange intermediary, in order for Grantor to effect an exchange under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code. In such event, Grantor shall provide Grantee with a Notice of Assignment, attached as Exhibit C, and Grantee shall execute an acknowledgement of receipt of such notice.

Section 12 Notices. Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder by one party to the other shall be delivered in the manner set forth in the C&M Agreement. Notices to Grantor under this Easement shall be delivered to the following address: BNSF Railway Company, Real Estate Department, 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76131, Attn: Permits, or such other address as Grantor may from time to time direct by notice to Grantee.

Section 13 **Recordation.** It is understood and agreed that this Easement Agreement shall not be in recordable form and shall not be placed on public record and any such recording shall be a breach of this Easement Agreement. Grantor and Grantee shall execute a Memorandum of Easement in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"** (the "**Memorandum of Easement**") subject to changes required, if any, to conform such form to local recording requirements. The Memorandum of Easement shall be recorded in the real estate records in the county where the Premises are located. If a Memorandum of Easement is not executed by the parties and recorded as described above within 90 days of the Effective Date, Grantor shall have the right to terminate this Easement Agreement upon notice to Grantee.

Section 14 **Miscellaneous.**

14.1 All questions concerning the interpretation or application of provisions of this Easement Agreement shall be decided according to the substantive Laws of the State of **[Minnesota]** without regard to conflicts of law provisions.

14.2 In the event that Grantee consists of two or more parties, all the covenants and agreements of Grantee herein contained shall be the joint and several covenants and agreements of such parties. This instrument and all of the terms, covenants and provisions hereof shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon each of the parties hereto and their respective legal representatives, successors and assigns and shall run with and be binding upon the Premises.

14.3 If any action at law or in equity is necessary to enforce or interpret the terms of this Easement Agreement, the prevailing party or parties shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and necessary disbursements in addition to any other relief to which such party or parties may be entitled.

14.4 If any provision of this Easement Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable under present or future Laws, such provision will be fully severable and this Easement Agreement will be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision is not a part hereof, and the remaining provisions hereof will remain in full force and effect. In lieu of any illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision herein, there will be added automatically as a part of this Easement Agreement a provision as similar in its terms to such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible and be legal, valid and enforceable.

14.5 This Easement Agreement and the C&M Agreement, which is incorporated herein, is the full and complete agreement between Grantor and Grantee with respect to all matters relating to Grantee's use of the Premises, and supersedes any and all other agreements between the parties hereto relating to Grantee's use of the Premises as described herein. However, nothing herein is intended to terminate any surviving obligation of Grantee or Grantee's obligation to defend and hold Grantor harmless in any prior written agreement between the parties.

14.6 Time is of the essence for the performance of this Easement Agreement.

Section 15. **Administrative Fee.** Grantee acknowledges that a material consideration for this agreement, without which it would not be made, is the agreement between Grantee and Grantor, that the Grantee shall pay upon return of this Easement Agreement signed by Grantee to Grantor's Broker a processing fee in the amount of \$2,500.00 over and above the agreed upon acquisition price. Said fee shall be made payable to BNSF Railway Company by a separate check.

Witness the execution of this Easement Agreement as of the date first set forth above.

GRANTOR:

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY, a Delaware corporation

By: _____
Name: Cary Hutchings
Title: General Director Real Estate

GRANTEE:

AITKIN COUNTY
a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

EXHIBIT "B"

MEMORANDUM OF EASEMENT

THIS MEMORANDUM OF EASEMENT is hereby executed this _____ day of _____, 2026, by and between **BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY**, a Delaware corporation ("**Grantor**"), whose address AITKIN COUNTY, ("**Grantee**"), whose address for purposes of this instrument is _____, which terms "Grantor" and "Grantee" shall include, wherever the context permits or requires, singular or plural, and the heirs, legal representatives, successors and assigns of the respective parties:

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Grantor owns or controls certain real property situated in Aitkin County, Minnesota as described on **Exhibit "A"** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (the "**Premises**");

WHEREAS, Grantor and Grantee entered into an Easement Agreement, dated _____, 2026 (the "**Easement Agreement**") which set forth, among other things, the terms of an easement granted by Grantor to Grantee over and across the Premises (the "**Easement**"); and

WHEREAS, Grantor and Grantee desire to memorialize the terms and conditions of the Easement Agreement of record.

For valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Grantor does grant unto Grantee and Grantee does hereby accept from Grantor the Easement over and across the Premises.

The term of the Easement, unless sooner terminated under provisions of the Easement Agreement, shall be perpetual.

All the terms, conditions, provisions and covenants of the Easement Agreement are incorporated herein by this reference for all purposes as though written out at length herein, and both the Easement Agreement and this Memorandum of Easement shall be deemed to constitute a single instrument or document. This Memorandum of Easement is not intended to amend, modify, supplement, or supersede any of the provisions of the Easement Agreement and, to the extent there may be any conflict or inconsistency between the Easement Agreement or this Memorandum of Easement, the Easement Agreement shall control.

END OF PAGE – SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantor and Grantee have executed this Memorandum of Easement to as of the date and year first above written.

GRANTOR:

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,

a Delaware corporation

By: _____
Name: Cary Hutchings
Title: General Director Real Estate

STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF TARRANT §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the _____ day of _____, 2026, by _____ (name) as _____ (title) of **BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY**, a Delaware corporation.

Notary Public

My appointment expires: _____

(Seal)

GRANTEE:

AITKIN COUNTY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

STATE OF _____ §
 §
COUNTY OF _____ §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the _____ day of _____,
2026, by _____ (name) as
_____ (title) of _____, a
_____.

Notary Public

My appointment expires: _____

(Seal)



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EXHIBIT "C"

CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

1) General

- A. The Contractor must cooperate with BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY, hereinafter referred to as "Railway" where work is over or under on or adjacent to Railway property and/or right-of-way, hereafter referred to as "Railway Property", during the construction of roadway construction of CSAH 5 in Aitkin County, MN.
- B. The Contractor must execute and deliver to the Railway duplicate copies of the Exhibit "C-1" Agreement, in the form attached hereto, obligating the Contractor to provide and maintain in full force and effect the insurance called for under Section 3 of said Exhibit "C-1". Questions regarding procurement of the Railroad Protective Liability Insurance should be directed to Rosa Martinez at Marsh, USA, 214-303-8519.
- C. The Contractor must plan, schedule and conduct all work activities so as not to interfere with the movement of any trains on Railway Property.
- D. The Contractor's right to enter Railway's Property is subject to the absolute right of Railway to cause the Contractor's work on Railway's Property to cease if, in the opinion of Railway, Contractor's activities create a hazard to Railway's Property, employees, and/or operations. Railway will have the right to stop construction work on the Project if any of the following events take place: (i) Contractor (or any of its subcontractors) performs the Project work in a manner contrary to the plans and specifications approved by Railway; (ii) Contractor (or any of its subcontractors), in Railway's opinion, prosecutes the Project work in a manner which is hazardous to Railway property, facilities or the safe and expeditious movement of railroad traffic; (iii) the insurance described in the attached Exhibit C-1 is canceled during the course of the Project; or (iv) Contractor fails to pay Railway for the Temporary Construction License or the Easement. The work stoppage will continue until all necessary actions are taken by Contractor or its subcontractor to rectify the situation to the satisfaction of Railway's Division Engineer or until additional insurance has been delivered to and accepted by Railway. In the event of a breach of (i) this Agreement, (ii) the Temporary Construction License, or (iii) the Easement, Railway may immediately terminate the Temporary Construction License or the Easement. Any such work stoppage under this provision will not give rise to any liability on the part of Railway. Railway's right to stop the work is in addition to any other rights Railway may have including, but not limited to, actions or suits for damages or lost profits. In the event that Railway desires to stop construction work on the Project, Railway agrees to immediately notify the following individual in writing:



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- E. The Contractor is responsible for determining and complying with all Federal, State and Local Governmental laws and regulations, including, but not limited to Environmental Laws (as defined below) and health and safety laws and regulations. The Contractor hereby indemnifies, defends and holds harmless Railway for, from and against all fines or penalties imposed or assessed by Federal, State and Local Governmental Agencies against the Railway which arise out of Contractor's work under this Agreement.

- F. The Contractor must notify **Aitkin County** and Railway's Manager Public Projects, at alexis.jones@bnsf.com at least thirty (30) calendar days before commencing any work on Railway Property.

- G. For any bridge demolition and/or falsework above any tracks or any excavations located with any part of the excavations located within, whichever is greater, twenty-five (25) feet of the nearest track or intersecting a slope from the plane of the top of rail on a 2 horizontal to 1 vertical slope beginning at eleven (11) feet from centerline of the nearest track, both measured perpendicular to center line of track, the Contractor must furnish the Railway five sets of working drawings showing details of construction affecting Railway Property and tracks. The working drawing must include the proposed method of installation and removal of falsework, shoring or cribbing, not included in the contract plans and two sets of structural calculations of any falsework, shoring or cribbing. For all excavation and shoring submittal plans, the current "BNSF-UPRR Guidelines for Temporary Shoring" must be used for determining the design loading conditions to be used in shoring design, and all calculations and submittals must be in accordance with the current "BNSF-UPRR Guidelines for Temporary Shoring". All submittal drawings and calculations must be stamped by a registered professional engineer licensed to practice in the state the project is located. All calculations must take into consideration railway surcharge loading and must be designed to meet American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (previously known as American Railway Engineering Association) Coopers E-80 live loading standard. All drawings and calculations must be stamped by a registered professional engineer licensed to practice in the state the project is located. The Contractor must not begin work until notified by the Railway that plans have been approved. The Contractor will be required to use lifting devices such as, cranes and/or winches to place or to remove any falsework over Railway's tracks. In no case will the Contractor be relieved of responsibility for results obtained by the implementation of said approved plans.

- H. Subject to the movement of Railway's trains, Railway will cooperate with the Contractor such that the work may be handled and performed in an efficient manner. The Contractor



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will have no claim whatsoever for any type of damages or for extra or additional compensation in the event his work is delayed by the Railway.

2) Contractor Safety Orientation

- A. No employee of the Contractor, its subcontractors, agents or invitees may enter Railway Property without first having completed Railway's Engineering Contractor Safety Orientation, found on the web site www.BNSFContractor.com. The Contractor must ensure that each of its employees, subcontractors, agents or invitees completes Railway's Engineering Contractor Safety Orientation through internet sessions before any work is performed on the Project. Additionally, the Contractor must ensure that each and every one of its employees, subcontractors, agents or invitees possesses a card certifying completion of the Railway Contractor Safety Orientation before entering Railway Property. The Contractor is responsible for the cost of the Railway Contractor Safety Orientation. The Contractor must renew the Railway Contractor Safety Orientation annually. Further clarification can be found on the web site or from the Railway's Representative.

3) Railway Requirements

- A. The Contractor must take protective measures as are necessary to keep railway facilities, including track ballast, free of sand, debris, and other foreign objects and materials resulting from his operations. Any damage to railway facilities resulting from Contractor's operations will be repaired or replaced by Railway and the cost of such repairs or replacement must be paid for by the Agency.
- B. The Contractor must notify the Railway's Manager of Engineering Dan Peltier at daniel.peltier@bnsf.com and provide blasting plans to the Railway for review seven (7) calendar days prior to conducting any blasting operations adjacent to or on Railway's Property.
- C. The Contractor must abide by the following temporary clearances during construction:
- 15'-0" Horizontally from centerline of nearest track
 - 21'-6" Vertically above top of rail
 - 27'-0" Vertically above top of rail for electric wires carrying less than 750 volts
 - 28'-0" Vertically above top of rail for electric wires carrying 750 volts to 15,000 volts
 - 30'-0" Vertically above top of rail for electric wires carrying 15,000 volts to 20,000 volts
 - 34'-0" Vertically above top of rail for electric wires carrying more than 20,000 volts
- D. Upon completion of construction, the following clearances shall be maintained:



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- 25' Horizontally from centerline of nearest track
 - 23' 6" Vertically above top of rail
- E. Any infringement within State statutory clearances due to the Contractor's operations must be submitted to the Railway and to **Aitkin County** and must not be undertaken until approved in writing by the Railway, and until **Aitkin County** has obtained any necessary authorization from the State Regulatory Authority for the infringement. No extra compensation will be allowed in the event the Contractor's work is delayed pending Railway approval, and/or the State Regulatory Authority's approval.
- F. In the case of impaired vertical clearance above top of rail, Railway will have the option of installing tell-tales or other protective devices Railway deems necessary for protection of Railway operations. The cost of tell-tales or protective devices will be borne by the Agency.
- G. The details of construction affecting the Railway's Property and tracks not included in the contract plans must be submitted to the Railway by **Aitkin County** for approval before work is undertaken and this work must not be undertaken until approved by the Railway.
- H. At other than public road crossings, the Contractor must not move any equipment or materials across Railway's tracks until permission has been obtained from the Railway. The Contractor must obtain a "Temporary Construction Crossing Agreement" from the Railway prior to moving his equipment or materials across the Railways tracks. The temporary crossing must be gated and locked at all times when not required for use by the Contractor. The temporary crossing for use of the Contractor will be constructed and, at the completion of the project, removed at the expense of the Contractor.
- I. Discharge, release or spill on the Railway Property of any hazardous substances, oil, petroleum, constituents, pollutants, contaminants, or any hazardous waste is prohibited and Contractor must immediately notify the **Railway's Resource Operations Center at 1(800) 832-5452**, of any discharge, release or spills in excess of a reportable quantity. Contractor must not allow Railway Property to become a treatment, storage or transfer facility as those terms are defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or any state analogue.
- J. The Contractor upon completion of the work covered by this contract, must promptly remove from the Railway's Property all of Contractor's tools, equipment, implements and other materials, whether brought upon said property by said Contractor or any Subcontractor, employee or agent of Contractor or of any Subcontractor, and must cause Railway's Property to be left in a condition acceptable to the Railway's representative.

4) Contractor Roadway Worker on Track Safety Program and Safety Action Plan



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- A.** Each Contractor that will perform work within 25 feet of the centerline of a track must develop and implement a Roadway Worker Protection/On Track Safety Program and work with Railway Project Representative to develop an on track safety strategy as described in the guidelines listed in the on track safety portion of the Safety Orientation. This Program must provide Roadway Worker protection/on track training for all employees of the Contractor, its subcontractors, agents or invitees. This training is reinforced at the job site through job safety briefings. Additionally, each Contractor must develop and implement the Safety Action Plan, as provided for on the web site www.BNSFContractor.com, which will be made available to Railway prior to commencement of any work on Railway Property. During the performance of work, the Contractor must audit its work activities. The Contractor must designate an on-site Project Supervisor who will serve as the contact person for the Railway and who will maintain a copy of the Safety Action Plan, safety audits, and Material Safety Datasheets (MSDS), at the job site.
- B.** Contractor shall have a background investigation performed on all of its employees, subcontractors and agents who will be performing any services for Railroad under this Agreement which are determined by Railroad in its sole discretion **a)** to be on Railroad's property, or **b)** that require access to Railroad Critical Infrastructure, Railroad Critical Information Systems, Railroad's Employees, Hazardous Materials on Railroad's property or is being transported by or otherwise in the custody of Railroad, or Freight in Transit involving Railroad.
- i) The required background screening shall at a minimum meet the rail industry background screening criteria defined by the e-RAILSAFE Program as outlined at www.erailsafe.com, in addition to any other applicable regulatory requirements.
 - ii) Contractor shall obtain written consent from all its employees, subcontractors or agents screened in compliance with the e-RAILSAFE Program to participate in the Program on their behalf and to release completed background information to Railroad's designee. Contractor shall be subject to periodic audit to ensure compliance.
 - iii) Contractor subject to the e-RAILSAFE Program hereunder shall not permit any of its employees, subcontractors or agents to perform services hereunder who are not first approved under e-RAILSAFE Program standards. Railroad shall have the right to deny entry onto its premises or access as described in this section above to any of Contractor's employees, subcontractors or agents who do not display the authorized identification badge issued by a background screening service meeting the standards set forth in the e-RAILSAFE Program, or who in Railroad's opinion, which may not be unreasonable, may pose a threat to the safety or security of Railroad's operations, assets or personnel.



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- iv) Contractors shall be responsible for ensuring that its employees, subcontractors and agents are United States citizens or legally working in the United States under a lawful and appropriate work VISA or other work authorization.

5) Railway Flagger Services

- A. The Contractor must give BNSF's Scheduling Agent (BNSFScheduling@wilsonco.com) a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days advance notice when flagging services will be required so that the Scheduling Agent can make appropriate arrangements (i.e., obtain availability and cost estimate for three (3) approved vendors for selection). If flagging services are scheduled in advance by the Contractor and it is subsequently determined by the parties hereto that such services are no longer necessary, the Contractor must give the Scheduling Agent ten (10) working days advance notice so that appropriate arrangements can be made to abolish the position pursuant to union requirements.
- B. Unless determined otherwise by Railway's Project Representative, protective flagging services will be required when Contractor's work activities are located over, under and/or within twenty-five (25) feet measured horizontally from centerline of the nearest track and when cranes or similar equipment positioned beyond 25-feet from the track centerline could foul the track in the event of tip over or other catastrophic occurrence, but not limited thereto for the following conditions:
 - i) When, upon inspection by Railway's Representative, other conditions warrant.
 - ii) When any excavation is performed below the bottom of tie elevation, if, in the opinion of Railway's representative, track or other Railway facilities may be subject to movement or settlement.
 - iii) When work in any way interferes with the safe operation of trains at timetable speeds.
 - iv) When any hazard is presented to Railway track, communications, signal, electrical, or other facilities either due to persons, material, equipment or blasting in the vicinity.
 - v) Special permission must be obtained from the Railway before moving heavy or cumbersome objects or equipment which might result in making the track impassable.
- C. Flagger services will be performed by qualified Railway flaggers.
 - i) Flagger crew generally consists of one employee. However, additional personnel may be required to protect Railway Property and operations, if deemed necessary by the Railways Representative.



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- ii) Each time a flagger is called, the minimum period for billing will be the eight (8) hour basic day.
- iii) The cost of flagger services provided by the Railway will be borne by **Aitkin County** and invoiced through BNSF's Scheduling Agent. The estimated cost for one (1) flagger is approximately between \$1,200.00-\$2,000.00 for an eight (8) hour basic day with time and one-half or double time for overtime, rest days and holidays. The estimated cost for each flagger includes vacation allowance, paid holidays, Railway and unemployment insurance, public liability and property damage insurance, health and welfare benefits, vehicle, transportation, meals, lodging, radio, equipment, supervision, scheduling and other costs incidental to performing flagging services. Negotiations for Railway labor or collective bargaining agreements and rate changes authorized by appropriate Federal authorities may increase actual or estimated flagging rates. **THE FLAGGING RATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF PERFORMANCE BY THE CONTRACTOR HEREUNDER WILL BE USED TO CALCULATE THE ACTUAL COSTS OF FLAGGING PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH.**

The cost of **inspector coordinator services** provided by the railway will be borne by **Contractor**. The estimated cost for inspector coordinator services is approximately \$1,200 per day. The contractor shall reimburse the railroad for actual costs of inspection services.

- iv) The average train traffic on this route is 3 freight trains per 24-hour period at a timetable speed 49 MPH and N/A passenger trains at a timetable speed of N/A MPH.

6) Contractor General Safety Requirements

- A.** Work in the proximity of railway track(s) is potentially hazardous where movement of trains and equipment can occur at any time and in any direction. All work performed by contractors within 25 feet of any track must be in compliance with FRA Roadway Worker Protection Regulations.
- B.** Before beginning any task on Railway Property, a thorough job safety briefing must be conducted with all personnel involved with the task and repeated when the personnel or task changes. If the task is within 25 feet of any track, the job briefing must include the Railway's flagger, as applicable, and include the procedures the Contractor will use to protect its employees, subcontractors, agents or invitees from moving any equipment adjacent to or across any Railway track(s).
- C.** Workers must not work within 25 feet of the centerline of any track without an on track safety strategy approved by the Railway's Project Representative. When authority is provided, every contractor employee must know: (1) who the Railway flagger is, and how to contact the flagger, (2) limits of the authority, (3) the method of communication to stop



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and resume work, and (4) location of the designated places of safety. Persons or equipment entering flag/work limits that were not previously job briefed, must notify the flagger immediately, and be given a job briefing when working within 25 feet of the center line of track.

- D. When Contractor employees are required to work on the Railway Property after normal working hours or on weekends, the Railway's representative in charge of the project must be notified. A minimum of two employees must be present at all times.
- E. Any employees, agents or invitees of Contractor or its subcontractors under suspicion of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or in the possession of same, will be removed from the Railway's Property and subsequently released to the custody of a representative of Contractor management. Future access to the Railway's Property by that employee will be denied.
- F. Any damage to Railway Property, or any hazard noticed on passing trains must be reported immediately to the Railway's representative in charge of the project. Any vehicle or machine which may come in contact with track, signal equipment, or structure (bridge) and could result in a train derailment must be reported immediately to the Railway representative in charge of the project and to the Railway's Resource Operations Center at 1(800) 832-5452. Local emergency numbers are to be obtained from the Railway representative in charge of the project prior to the start of any work and must be posted at the job site.
- G. For safety reasons, all persons are prohibited from having pocket knives, firearms or other deadly weapons in their possession while working on Railway's Property.
- H. All personnel protective equipment (PPE) used on Railway Property must meet applicable OSHA and ANSI specifications. Current Railway personnel protective equipment requirements are listed on the web site, www.BNSFContractor.com, however, a partial list of the requirements include: a) safety glasses with permanently affixed side shields (no yellow lenses); b) hard hats; c) safety shoe with: hardened toes, above-the-ankle lace-up and a defined heel; and d) high visibility retro-reflective work wear. The Railway's representative in charge of the project is to be contacted regarding local specifications for meeting requirements relating to hi-visibility work wear. Hearing protection, fall protection, gloves, and respirators must be worn as required by State and Federal regulations. **(NOTE – Should there be a discrepancy between the information contained on the web site and the information in this paragraph, the web site will govern.)**
- I. **THE CONTRACTOR MUST NOT PILE OR STORE ANY MATERIALS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT CLOSER THAN 25'-0" TO THE CENTER LINE OF THE NEAREST RAILWAY TRACK. MATERIALS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT MUST NOT BE STORED OR LEFT WITHIN 250 FEET OF ANY HIGHWAY/RAIL AT-GRADE**



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CROSSINGS OR TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION CROSSING, WHERE STORAGE OF THE SAME WILL OBSTRUCT THE VIEW OF A TRAIN APPROACHING THE CROSSING. PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK, THE CONTRACTOR MUST ESTABLISH A STORAGE AREA WITH CONCURRENCE OF THE RAILWAY'S REPRESENTATIVE.

- J. Machines or vehicles must not be left unattended with the engine running. Parked machines or equipment must be in gear with brakes set and if equipped with blade, pan or bucket, they must be lowered to the ground. All machinery and equipment left unattended on Railway's Property must be left inoperable and secured against movement. (See internet Engineering Contractor Safety Orientation program for more detailed specifications)
- K. Workers must not create and leave any conditions at the work site that would interfere with water drainage. Any work performed over water must meet all Federal, State and Local regulations.
- L. All power line wires must be considered dangerous and of high voltage unless informed to the contrary by proper authority. For all power lines the minimum clearance between the lines and any part of the equipment or load must be; 200 KV or below - 15 feet; 200 to 350 KV - 20 feet; 350 to 500 KV - 25 feet; 500 to 750 KV - 35 feet; and 750 to 1000 KV - 45 feet. If capacity of the line is not known, a minimum clearance of 45 feet must be maintained. A person must be designated to observe clearance of the equipment and give a timely warning for all operations where it is difficult for an operator to maintain the desired clearance by visual means.

7) Excavation

- A. Before excavating, the Contractor must determine whether any underground pipe lines, electric wires, or cables, including fiber optic cable systems are present and located within the Project work area. The Contractor must determine whether excavation on Railway's Property could cause damage to buried cables resulting in delay to Railway traffic and disruption of service to users. Delays and disruptions to service may cause business interruptions involving loss of revenue and profits. Before commencing excavation, the Contractor must contact **BNSF's Field Engineering Representative Dan Peltier**. All underground and overhead wires will be considered HIGH VOLTAGE and dangerous until verified with the company having ownership of the line. **It is the Contractor's responsibility to notify any other companies that have underground utilities in the area and arrange for the location of all underground utilities before excavating.**
- B. The Contractor must cease all work and notify the Railway immediately before continuing excavation in the area if obstructions are encountered which do not appear on drawings. If the obstruction is a utility and the owner of the utility can be identified, then the Contractor must also notify the owner immediately. If there is any doubt about the location of



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underground cables or lines of any kind, no work must be performed until the exact location has been determined. There will be no exceptions to these instructions.

- C. All excavations must be conducted in compliance with applicable OSHA regulations and, regardless of depth, must be shored where there is any danger to tracks, structures or personnel.
- D. Any excavations, holes or trenches on the Railway's Property must be covered, guarded and/or protected when not being worked on. When leaving work site areas at night and over weekends, the areas must be secured and left in a condition that will ensure that Railway employees and other personnel who may be working or passing through the area are protected from all hazards. All excavations must be back filled as soon as possible.
- E. Excavations and restoration must be conducted in accordance with all applicable Legal Requirements and the environmental provisions of Section 8.
- F. All fill materials to be imported to Railway's property shall be certified clean fill or from a Railway-approved source, and must otherwise be suitable for its intended purpose as backfill material. Supporting documentation shall be provided to Railway upon request.
- G. Contractor must meet the appropriate compaction requirements for all fills and will be responsible for settlement of all fills, erosion, and embankments that may occur as a result of the placement fill.

8) Environmental Requirements:

- A. Contractor must comply with all Environmental Laws (as defined below). Contractor must not maintain a "treatment," "storage," "transfer" or "disposal" facility, or "underground storage tank," as those terms are defined by Environmental Laws, on the Railway Property or the right of way. Contractor will not handle, transport, release or suffer the release of Hazardous Materials (as defined below).
- B. If Contractor discovers any hazardous waste, hazardous substance, petroleum or other deleterious material, including but not limited to any release of Hazardous Materials non-containerized commodity or material, on or adjacent to Railway's Property, in or near any surface water, swamp, wetlands or waterways, while performing any work under this Agreement, Contractor must immediately: (a) notify the Railway's Resource Operations Center at 1(800) 832-5452, of such discovery: (b) take safeguards necessary to protect its employees, subcontractors, agents and/or third parties: and (c) exercise due care with respect to the release, including the taking of any appropriate measure to minimize the impact of such release. Contractor must also give Railway prompt notice of all measures undertaken to investigate, remediate, or respond to any aforementioned condition.



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- C.** If Railway has notice from Contractor or otherwise of a release or violation of Environmental Laws arising in any way with respect to the work which occurred or may occur during the term of this Agreement, Railway may require Contractor, at Contractor's sole risk and expense, to take timely measures to investigate, remediate, respond to or otherwise cure such release or violation affecting the Railway's Property.
- D.** If during the construction or subsequent maintenance of the work or Structures, or any other soil-disturbing activities, soils or other materials considered to be environmentally impacted are encountered, Contractor will stop work immediately and notify Railway. After consultation with Railway, Contractor shall, at Contractor's expense, characterize any such impacted soils. Upon receiving sampling results, Contractor shall, at Contractor's expense, in consultation with Railway, manage, remove, and/or dispose any such impacted soils offsite at an appropriately-licensed facility in accordance with Environmental Laws. Soil characterization and applicable disposal requirements, shall be in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local Environmental Laws or in consultation with an agency having the capacity and authority to make such a determination.
- E.** All soils and materials to be removed from the Railway Property or right of way must be properly characterized, managed, transported, and disposed of at an appropriately-licensed facility, at Contractor's expense, in accordance with all Environmental Laws. Contractor shall be the "Generator" of any and all such materials and waste, as such term is defined in Environmental Laws.
- F.** Notwithstanding anything in this Section 1.08, Contractor understands that Railway has no duty or obligation to monitor Contractor's use of the property or right of way to determine Contractor's compliance with Environmental Laws, it being solely Contractor's responsibility to ensure that Contractor's use is compliant. Regulatory plans and a minimum of two (2) years of records/inspections shall be readily available. Contractor shall promptly provide the same to the Railroad upon request.
- G.** "Environmental Law(s)" shall mean any federal, state, local, or tribal law, statute, ordinance, code, rule, regulation, policy, common law, license, authorization, decision, order, or injunction which pertains to health, safety, any Hazardous Material, or the environment (including but not limited to ground, air, water, or noise pollution or contamination, and underground or above-ground tanks) and shall include, without limitation, CERCLA 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq.; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. §6901 et seq., CERCLA; the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. §5101 et seq.; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.; the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.; the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.; the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §300f et seq.; the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.; the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. 136 to 136y; the Oil Pollution Act, 33



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U.S.C. 2701 et seq.; and the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.; all as have been amended from time to time, and any other federal, state, local, or tribal environmental requirements, together with all rules, regulations, orders, and decrees now or hereafter promulgated under any of the foregoing, as any of the foregoing now exist or may be changed or amended or come into effect in the future.

- H. "Hazardous Material(s)" shall include but shall not be limited to any substance, material, or waste that is regulated by any Environmental Law or otherwise regulated by any federal, state, local, or tribal governmental authority because of toxic, flammable, explosive, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or other properties that may be hazardous to human health or the environment, including without limitation asbestos and asbestos-containing materials, radon, petroleum and petroleum products, urea formaldehyde foam insulation, methane, lead-based paint, polychlorinated biphenyl compounds, hydrocarbons or like substances and their additives or constituents, pesticides, agricultural chemicals, and any other special, toxic, or hazardous (i) substances, (ii) materials, or (iii) wastes of any kind, including without limitation those now or hereafter defined, determined, or identified as "hazardous chemicals," "hazardous substances," "hazardous materials," "toxic substances," or "hazardous wastes" in any Environmental Law.

9) Personal Injury Reporting

- A. The Railway is required to report certain injuries as a part of compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) reporting requirements. Any personal injury sustained by an employee of the Contractor, subcontractor or Contractor's invitees while on the Railway's Property must be reported immediately (by phone mail if unable to contact in person) to the Railway's representative in charge of the project. The Non-Employee Personal Injury Data Collection Form contained herein is to be completed and sent by Fax to the Railway at 1(817) 352-7595 and to the Railway's Project Representative no later than the close of shift on the date of the injury.



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NON-EMPLOYEE PERSONAL INJURY DATA COLLECTION

(If injuries are in connection with rail equipment accident/incident, highway rail grade crossing accident or automobile accident, ensure that appropriate information is obtained, forms completed and that data entry personnel are aware that injuries relate to that specific event.)

Injured Person Type:

- Passenger on train (C) Non-employee (N)
(i.e., emp of another railroad, or, non-BNSF emp involved in vehicle accident, including company vehicles)
- Contractor/safety Contractor/non-safety sensitive (G)
- Volunteer/safety sensitive (H) Volunteer/other non-safety sensitive (I)
- Non-trespasser (D) - to include highway users involved in highway rail grade crossing accidents who did not go around or through gates
- Trespasser (E) - to include highway users involved in highway rail grade crossing accidents who went around or through gates
- Non-trespasser (J) - Off railroad property

If train involved, Train ID:

Transmit attached information to Accident/Incident Reporting Center by:
Fax 1-817-352-7595 or by Phone 1-800-697-6736 or email to: Accident-Reporting.Center@BNSF.com

Officer Providing Information:

(Name) (Employee No.) (Phone #)

REPORT PREPARED TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL ACCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO 49 U.S.C. 20903 AND 83 U.S.C. 490



NON-EMPLOYEE PERSONAL INJURY DATA COLLECTION

Please complete this form and provide to the BNSF supervisor, who will input this information into the EHS Star system. For questions, call (817) 352-1267 or email Safety.IncidentReporting@BNSF.com.

Accident City/State: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

County: _____ Temperature: _____ Weather: _____
(if non-BNSF location)

Name (Last/First/MI): _____

Age: _____ Gender (if available): _____

Company: _____

eRailsafe Badge Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

BNSF Contractor Badge Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Injury: _____ Body Part: _____
(e.g., laceration) (e.g., hand)

Description of accident (including how accident occurred, potential cause, etc.):

Work activity in progress at time of accident: _____

Tools, machinery, or hazardous materials involved in accident: _____

Treatment:

- First Aid Only
- Required Medical Treatment
- Other Medical Treatment: _____

Dr. Name: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Hospital Name: _____

Hospital Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Diagnosis: _____

THIS REPORT IS PART OF BNSF'S ACCIDENT REPORT PURSUANT TO THE ACCIDENT REPORTS STATUTE AND, AS SUCH SHALL NOT "BE ADMITTED AS EVIDENCE OR USED FOR ANY PURPOSE IN ANY SUIT OR ACTION FOR DAMAGES GROWING OUT OF ANY MATTER MENTIONED IN SAID REPORT...." 49 U.S.C. § 20903. See 49 C.F.R. § 225.7(b).



EXHIBIT "C-1"

**Agreement Between
BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY
and the
CONTRACTOR**

Railway File: _____

Agency Project: _____

Account Name, a/an State or Country of Formation Type of Organization (hereinafter called "Contractor"), has entered into an agreement (hereinafter called "Agreement") dated _____, 20__, **TBD** with **Aitkin County** for the performance of certain work in connection with the following project: Roadway realignment of CSAH 5. Performance of such work will necessarily require Contractor to enter **BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY** (hereinafter called "Railway") right of way and property (hereinafter called "Railway Property"). The Agreement provides that no work will be commenced within Railway Property until the Contractor employed in connection with said work for **Aitkin County** (i) executes and delivers to Railway an Agreement in the form hereof, and (ii) provides insurance of the coverage and limits specified in such Agreement and Section 3 herein. If this Agreement is executed by a party who is not the Owner, General Partner, President or Vice President of Contractor, Contractor must furnish evidence to Railway certifying that the signatory is empowered to execute this Agreement on behalf of Contractor.

Accordingly, in consideration of Railway granting permission to Contractor to enter upon Railway Property and as an inducement for such entry, Contractor, effective on the date of the Agreement, has agreed and does hereby agree with Railway as follows:

1) RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY

- A.** Contractor hereby waives, releases, indemnifies, defends and holds harmless Railway for all judgments, awards, claims, demands, and expenses (including attorneys' fees), for injury or death to all persons, including Railway's and Contractor's officers and employees, and for loss and damage to property belonging to any person, arising in any manner from Contractor's or any of



Contractor's subcontractors' acts or omissions or any work performed on or about Railway's property or right-of-way. **THE LIABILITY ASSUMED BY CONTRACTOR WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE FACT, IF IT IS A FACT, THAT THE DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE, DEATH, OR INJURY WAS OCCASIONED BY OR CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF RAILWAY, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHERWISE, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH CLAIMS ARE PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE INTENSIONAL MISCONDUCT OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF RAILWAY.**

- B. THE INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATION ASSUMED BY CONTRACTOR INCLUDES ANY CLAIMS, SUITS OR JUDGMENTS BROUGHT AGAINST RAILWAY UNDER THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE'S LIABILITY ACT, INCLUDING CLAIMS FOR STRICT LIABILITY UNDER THE SAFETY APPLIANCE ACT OR THE LOCOMOTIVE INSPECTION ACT, WHENEVER SO CLAIMED.**
- C. Contractor further agrees, at its expense, in the name and on behalf of Railway, that it will adjust and settle all claims made against Railway, and will, at Railway's discretion, appear and defend any suits or actions of law or in equity brought against Railway on any claim or cause of action arising or growing out of or in any manner connected with any liability assumed by Contractor under this Agreement for which Railway is liable or is alleged to be liable. Railway will give notice to Contractor, in writing, of the receipt or dependency of such claims and thereupon Contractor must proceed to adjust and handle to a conclusion such claims, and in the event of a suit being brought against Railway, Railway may forward summons and complaint or other process in connection therewith to Contractor, and Contractor, at Railway's discretion, must defend, adjust, or settle such suits and protect, indemnify, and save harmless Railway from and against all damages, judgments, decrees, attorney's fees, costs, and expenses growing out of or resulting from or incident to any such claims or suits.
- D. In addition to any other provision of this Agreement, in the event that all or any portion of this Article shall be deemed to be inapplicable for any reason, including without limitation as a result of a decision of an applicable court, legislative enactment or regulatory order, the parties agree that this Article shall be interpreted as requiring Contractor to indemnify Railway to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law. **THROUGH THIS AGREEMENT THE PARTIES EXPRESSLY INTEND FOR CONTRACTOR TO INDEMNIFY RAILWAY FOR RAILWAY'S ACTS OF NEGLIGENCE.**



E. It is mutually understood and agreed that the assumption of liabilities and indemnification provided for in this Agreement survive any termination of this Agreement.

2) TERM

A. This Agreement is effective from the date of the Agreement until (i) the completion of the project set forth herein, and (ii) full and complete payment to Railway of any and all sums or other amounts owing and due hereunder.

3) INSURANCE

Contractor shall, at its sole cost and expense, procure and maintain during the life of this Agreement the following insurance coverage:

A. Commercial General Liability "CGL" Insurance

i) The policy will provide a minimum of \$2,000,000 each occurrence and an aggregate limit of at least \$4,000,000 but in no event less than the amount otherwise carried by the provider. Coverage must be purchased on a post 2004 ISO occurrence form or equivalent and include coverage for, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Bodily Injury and Property Damage
- (2) Personal Injury and Advertising Injury
- (3) Fire legal liability
- (4) Products and completed operations

ii) This policy shall also contain the following endorsements or language, which shall be indicated on the certificate of insurance:

- (1) definition of "Insured Contract" will be amended to remove any exclusion or other limitation for any work being done within 50 feet of RAILWAY's



property.

- (2) Waiver of subrogation in favor of and acceptable to RAILWAY; and
 - (3) Additional insured endorsement in favor of and acceptable to RAILWAY and include coverage for ongoing operations and completed operations; and
 - (4) Separation of insureds; and
 - (5) The policy will be primary and non-contributing with respect to any insurance carried by RAILWAY.
- iii) It is agreed that the workers' compensation and employers' liability related exclusions in the Commercial General Liability insurance policy(s) required herein are intended to apply to employees of the policy holder and shall not apply to **Railway** employees.
- iv) No other endorsements limiting coverage as respects obligations under this Agreement may be included on the policy with regard to the work being performed under this agreement.

B. Business Automobile Insurance

- i) The insurance will provide minimum coverage with a combined single limit of at least \$1,000,000 per accident, and include coverage for, but not limited to the following:
 - (1) Bodily injury and property damage
 - (2) Any and all vehicles owned, used or hired
- ii) The policy will include the following endorsements or language, which will be indicated on or attached to the certificate of insurance:
 - (1) Waiver of subrogation in favor of and acceptable to RAILWAY;
 - (2) Additional insured endorsement in favor of and acceptable to RAILWAY;
 - (3) Separation of insureds;
 - (4) The policy shall be primary and non-contributing with respect to any



insurance carried by RAILWAY.

C. Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance

- i) Workers Compensation and Employers Liability insurance including coverage for, but not limited to:
 - (1) Contractor's statutory liability under the worker's compensation laws of the state(s) in which the work is to be performed. If optional under State law, the insurance must cover all employees anyway.
 - (2) Employers' Liability (Part B) with limits of at least \$500,000 each accident, \$500,000 by disease policy limit, \$500,000 by disease each employee.
- ii) This policy shall also contain the following endorsements or language, which shall be indicated on the certificate of insurance:
 - (1) Waiver of subrogation in favor of and acceptable to Railway.

D. Railroad Protective Liability insurance

- i) Railroad Protective Liability insurance naming only the **Railway** as the Insured with coverage of at least \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$6,000,000 in the aggregate. The policy Must be issued on a standard ISO form CG 00 35 12 04 and include the following:
 - (1) Endorsed to include the Pollution Exclusion Amendment
 - (2) Endorsed to include the Limited Seepage and Pollution Endorsement.
 - (3) Endorsed to remove any exclusion for punitive damages.
 - (4) No other endorsements restricting coverage may be added.
 - (5) The original policy must be provided to the **Railway** prior to performing any work or services under this Agreement.
 - (6) Definition of "Physical Damage to Property" shall be endorsed to read: "means direct and accidental loss of or damage to all property owned by any named insured and all property in any named insured' care, custody, and control arising out of the acts or omissions of the contractor named on



the Declarations.

In lieu of providing a Railroad Protective Liability Policy, Licensee may participate (if available) in Railway’s Blanket Railroad Protective Liability Insurance Policy.

E. Other Requirements:

- i) Where allowable by law, all policies (applying to coverage listed above) shall contain no exclusion for punitive damages.
- ii) Contractor agrees to waive its right of recovery against **Railway** for all claims and suits against **Railway**. In addition, its insurers, through the terms of the policy or policy endorsement, waive their right of subrogation against **Railway** for all claims and suits. Contractor further waives its right of recovery, and its insurers also waive their right of subrogation against **Railway** for loss of its owned or leased property or property under Contractor’s care, custody or control.
- iii) Allocated Loss Expense shall be in addition to all policy limits for coverages referenced above.
- iv) Contractor is not allowed to self-insure without the prior written consent of **Railway**. If granted by **Railway**, any self-insured retention or other financial responsibility for claims shall be covered directly by Contractor in lieu of insurance. Any and all **Railway** liabilities that would otherwise, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, be covered by Contractor’s insurance will be covered as if Contractor elected not to include a deductible, self-insured retention or other financial responsibility for claims.
- v) Prior to commencing services, Contractor shall furnish to **Railway** an acceptable certificate(s) of insurance from an authorized representative evidencing the required coverage(s), endorsements, and amendments. The certificate should be directed to the following address:

BNSF	Railway	Company
c/o		CertFocus
P.O.	Box	140528
Kansas	City, MO	64114
Toll	Free:	877-576-2378
<u>Fax</u>	<u>number:</u>	817-840-7487



Email:
www.certfocus.com

BNSF@certfocus.com

- vi) Contractor shall notify Railway in writing at least 30 days prior to any cancellation, non-renewal, substitution or material alteration.
- vii) Any insurance policy shall be written by a reputable insurance company acceptable to Railway or with a current Best's Guide Rating of A- and Class VII or better, and authorized to do business in the state(s) in which the service is to be provided.
- viii) If coverage is purchased on a "claims made" basis, Contractor hereby agrees to maintain coverage in force for a minimum of three years after expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement. Annually Contractor agrees to provide evidence of such coverage as required hereunder.
- ix) Contractor represents that this Agreement has been thoroughly reviewed by Contractor's insurance agent(s)/broker(s), who have been instructed by Contractor to procure the insurance coverage required by this Agreement.
- x) Not more frequently than once every five years, Railway may reasonably modify the required insurance coverage to reflect then-current risk management practices in the railroad industry and underwriting practices in the insurance industry.
- xi) If any portion of the operation is to be subcontracted by Contractor, Contractor shall require that the subcontractor shall provide and maintain insurance coverage(s) as set forth herein, naming Railway as an additional insured, and shall require that the subcontractor shall release, defend and indemnify Railway to the same extent and under the same terms and conditions as Contractor is required to release, defend and indemnify Railway herein.
- xii) Failure to provide evidence as required by this section shall entitle, but not require, Railway to terminate this Agreement immediately. Acceptance of a certificate that does not comply with this section shall not operate as a waiver of Contractor's obligations hereunder.
- xiii) The fact that insurance (including, without limitation, self-insurance) is obtained by Contractor shall not be deemed to release or diminish the liability of Contractor including, without limitation, liability under the indemnity



provisions of this Agreement. Damages recoverable by Railway shall not be limited by the amount of the required insurance coverage.

- xiv) In the event of a claim or lawsuit involving Railway arising out of this agreement, Contractor will make available any required policy covering such claim or lawsuit.

- xv) These insurance provisions are intended to be a separate and distinct obligation on the part of the Contractor. Therefore, these provisions shall be enforceable and Contractor shall be bound thereby regardless of whether or not indemnity provisions are determined to be enforceable in the jurisdiction in which the work covered hereunder is performed.

- xvi) For purposes of this section, Railway shall mean "Burlington Northern Santa Fe LLC", "BNSF Railway Company" and the subsidiaries, successors, assigns and affiliates of each.

4) SALES AND OTHER TAXES

- A.** In the event applicable sales taxes of a state or political subdivision of a state of the United States are levied or assessed in connection with and directly related to any amounts invoiced by Contractor to Railway ("Sales Taxes"), Railway shall be responsible for paying only the Sales Taxes that Contractor separately states on the invoice or other billing documents provided to Railway; *provided, however*, that (i) nothing herein shall preclude Railway from claiming whatever Sales Tax exemptions are applicable to amounts Contractor bills Railway, (ii) Contractor shall be responsible for all sales, use, excise, consumption, services and other taxes which may accrue on all services, materials, equipment, supplies or fixtures that Contractor and its subcontractors use or consume in the performance of this Agreement, (iii) Contractor shall be responsible for Sales Taxes (together with any penalties, fines or interest thereon) that Contractor fails to separately state on the invoice or other billing documents provided to Railway or fails to collect at the time of payment by Railway of invoiced amounts (except where Railway claims a Sales Tax exemption), and (iv) Contractor shall be responsible for Sales Taxes (together with any penalties, fines or interest thereon) if Contractor fails to issue separate invoices for each state in which Contractor delivers goods, provides services or, if applicable, transfers intangible rights to Railway.

- B.** Upon request, Contractor shall provide Railway satisfactory evidence that all taxes (together with any penalties, fines or interest thereon) that Contractor is



responsible to pay under this Agreement have been paid. If a written claim is made against Contractor for Sales Taxes with respect to which Railway may be liable for under this Agreement, Contractor shall promptly notify Railway of such claim and provide Railway copies of all correspondence received from the taxing authority. Railway shall have the right to contest, protest, or claim a refund, in Railway's own name, any Sales Taxes paid by Railway to Contractor or for which Railway might otherwise be responsible for under this Agreement; provided, however, that if Railway is not permitted by law to contest any such Sales Tax in its own name, Contractor shall, if requested by Railway at Railway's sole cost and expense, contest in Contractor's own name the validity, applicability or amount of such Sales Tax and allow Railway to control and conduct such contest.

- C. Railway retains the right to withhold from payments made under this Agreement amounts required to be withheld under tax laws of any jurisdiction. If Contractor is claiming a withholding exemption or a reduction in the withholding rate of any jurisdiction on any payments under this Agreement, before any payments are made (and in each succeeding period or year as required by law), Contractor agrees to furnish to Railway a properly completed exemption form prescribed by such jurisdiction. Contractor shall be responsible for any taxes, interest or penalties assessed against Railway with respect to withholding taxes that Railway does not withhold from payments to Contractor.

5) ENVIRONMENTAL

- i) Contractor shall strictly comply with all Environmental Laws (as defined below). Contractor shall not maintain a "treatment," "storage," "transfer" or "disposal" facility, or "underground storage tank," as those terms are defined by Environmental Laws, on the Railway Property or the right of way. Contractor will not handle, transport, release or suffer the release of Hazardous Materials (as defined below) on or about the Premises. Small quantities of diesel fuel, engine oil, and hydraulic fluids used in the operation of Contractor's equipment shall not be deemed a violation of this Section 5.
- ii) Contractor shall give Railroad immediate notice to Railroad's Resource Operations Center at (800) 832-5452 of any release of Hazardous Materials on, from, or affecting the Premises. Contractor shall immediately respond to any release on or from the Premises. Any violation of Environmental Laws or any inspection or inquiry by governmental authorities charged with enforcing Environmental Laws with respect to Contractor's use of the Premises must be immediately reported to Railroad at EnvironmentalLeases@bnsf.com. Contractor also shall give Railroad prompt notice of all measures undertaken on behalf of



Contractor to investigate, remediate, respond to or otherwise cure a release or violation.

iii) If Railway has notice from Contractor or otherwise of a release or violation of Environmental Laws caused by Contractor or arising in any way with respect to Contractor's work which occurred or may occur during the term of this Agreement, Railway may require Contractor, at Contractor's sole risk and expense, to take timely measures to investigate, remediate, respond to or otherwise cure such release or violation affecting the Railway's Property.

iv) If during the construction or subsequent maintenance of the work or Structures, or any other soil-disturbing activities, soils or other materials considered to be environmentally impacted are encountered, Contractor will stop work immediately and notify Railway. After consultation with Railway, Contractor shall characterize any such impacted soils. Upon receiving sampling results, Contractor shall, in consultation with Railway, manage, remove, and/or dispose any such impacted soils offsite at an appropriately-licensed facility in accordance with Environmental Laws. Soil characterization and applicable disposal requirements, shall be in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local Environmental Laws or in consultation with an agency having the capacity and authority to make such a determination.

v) All soils and materials to be removed from the Railway Property or right of way must be properly characterized, managed, transported, and disposed of at an appropriately-licensed facility in accordance with all Environmental Laws. Either Contractor or Agency shall be the "Generator" of any and all such materials and waste, as such term is defined in Environmental Laws.

vi) All fill materials to be imported to Railway's property shall be certified clean fill or from a Railway approved source, and supporting documentation shall be provided to Railway upon request.

Contractor shall promptly report to Railroad in writing any conditions or activities upon the Railroad Property known to Contractor which create a risk of harm to persons, property or the environment and shall take all reasonable actions necessary to prevent injury to persons or property arising out of such conditions or activities; provided, however, that Contractor's reporting to Railroad shall not relieve Contractor of any obligation whatsoever imposed on it by this Agreement. Contractor shall promptly respond to Railroad's request for information regarding said conditions or activities.

vii) Notwithstanding anything in this Section 5, the parties agree that BNSF has no duty or obligation to monitor Contractor's use of the property or right of way to



determine Contractor's compliance with Environmental Laws, it being solely Contractor's responsibility to ensure that Contractor's use is compliant. Regulatory plans and a minimum of two (2) years of records/inspections shall be readily available. Contractor shall promptly provide the same to the Railroad upon request.

viii) "Environmental Law(s)" shall mean any federal, state, local, or tribal law, statute, ordinance, code, rule, regulation, policy, common law, license, authorization, decision, order, or injunction which pertains to health, safety, any Hazardous Material, or the environment (including but not limited to ground, air, water, or noise pollution or contamination, and underground or above-ground tanks) and shall include, without limitation, CERCLA 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq.; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. §6901 et seq., CERCLA; the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. §5101 et seq.; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.; the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.; the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.; the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §300f et seq.; the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.; the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. 136 to 136y; the Oil Pollution Act, 33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.; and the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.; all as have been amended from time to time, and any other federal, state, local, or tribal environmental requirements, together with all rules, regulations, orders, and decrees now or hereafter promulgated under any of the foregoing, as any of the foregoing now exist or may be changed or amended or come into effect in the future.

ix) "Hazardous Material(s)" shall include but shall not be limited to any substance, material, or waste that is regulated by any Environmental Law or otherwise regulated by any federal, state, local, or tribal governmental authority because of toxic, flammable, explosive, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or other properties that may be hazardous to human health or the environment, including without limitation asbestos and asbestos-containing materials, radon, petroleum and petroleum products, urea formaldehyde foam insulation, methane, lead-based paint, polychlorinated biphenyl compounds, hydrocarbons or like substances and their additives or constituents, pesticides, agricultural chemicals, and any other special, toxic, or hazardous (i) substances, (ii) materials, or (iii) wastes of any kind, including without limitation those now or hereafter defined, determined, or identified as "hazardous chemicals," "hazardous substances," "hazardous materials," "toxic substances," or "hazardous wastes" in any Environmental Law.

6) EXHIBIT "C" CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS



- A. The Contractor must observe and comply with all provisions, obligations, requirements and limitations contained in the Agreement, and the Contractor Requirements set forth on Exhibit "C" attached to the Agreement and this Agreement, including, but not be limited to, payment of all costs incurred for any damages to Railway roadbed, tracks, and/or appurtenances thereto, resulting from use, occupancy, or presence of its employees, representatives, or agents or subcontractors on or about the construction site. Contractor shall execute a Temporary Construction Crossing Agreement or Private Crossing Agreement (<http://www.bnsf.com/communities/faqs/permits-real-estate/>), for any temporary crossing requested to aid in the construction of this Project, if approved by BNSF.

7) TRAIN DELAY

- A. Contractor is responsible for and hereby indemnifies and holds harmless Railway (including its affiliated railway companies, and its tenants) for, from and against all damages arising from any unscheduled delay to a freight or passenger train which affects Railway's ability to fully utilize its equipment and to meet customer service and contract obligations. Contractor will be billed, as further provided below, for the economic losses arising from loss of use of equipment, contractual loss of incentive pay and bonuses and contractual penalties resulting from train delays, whether caused by Contractor, or subcontractors, or by the Railway performing work under this Agreement. Railway agrees that it will not perform any act to unnecessarily cause train delay.
- B. For loss of use of equipment, Contractor will be billed the current freight train hour rate per train as determined from Railway's records. Any disruption to train traffic may cause delays to multiple trains at the same time for the same period.
- C. Additionally, the parties acknowledge that passenger, U.S. mail trains and certain other grain, intermodal, coal and freight trains operate under incentive/penalty contracts between Railway and its customer(s). Under these arrangements, if Railway does not meet its contract service commitments, Railway may suffer loss of performance or incentive pay and/or be subject to penalty payments. Contractor is responsible for any train performance and incentive penalties or other contractual economic losses actually incurred by Railway which are attributable to a train delay caused by Contractor or its subcontractors.
- D. The contractual relationship between Railway and its customers is proprietary and confidential. In the event of a train delay covered by this Agreement, Railway will share information relevant to any train delay to the extent consistent with Railway



confidentiality obligations. The rate then in effect at the time of performance by the Contractor hereunder will be used to calculate the actual costs of train delay pursuant to this agreement.

- E. Contractor and its subcontractors must give Railway's representative Ben Peterson at 817-528-0285 (4) weeks advance notice of the times and dates for proposed work windows. Railway and Contractor will establish mutually agreeable work windows for the project. Railway has the right at any time to revise or change the work windows due to train operations or service obligations. Railway will not be responsible for any additional costs or expenses resulting from a change in work windows. Additional costs or expenses resulting from a change in work windows shall be accounted for in Contractor's expenses for the project.
- F. Contractor and subcontractors must plan, schedule, coordinate and conduct all Contractor's work so as to not cause any delays to any trains.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the parties hereto has caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized officer the day and year first above written.

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY

Account Name

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: Manager Public Projects

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Accepted and effective this _____ day of 20__.

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Fax: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



EXHIBIT D

AUTHORITY FOR EXPENDITURE

LOCATION : KIMBERLY	LINE SEGMENT : 27	AFE NUMBER :
PLANITEM NUMBER : 979010000	MILEPOST : 79.69	RFA NUMBER : 5909826
PROPERTY OF : BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY	DIVISION : TC	CPAR NUMBER : CB960024
OPERATED BY : BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY	SUBDIVISION : BRAINERD	BUDGET YEAR : 2026
JOINT FACILITY : AITKIN COUNTY	TRACK TYPE : S	BUDGET CLASS : 6
% BILLABLE (+/-) : 100.0	TAX STATE : MN	REPORTING OFFICE : 121
	SPONSOR : VP ENGINEERING	CENTER/ROLLUP : 13542

PURPOSE, JUSTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

PIP TCE DIV BRAINERD SUB LS 27 MP 79.69 DOT#076238S 100% BILLABLE TO AITKIN COUNTY MN. RELOCATE THE CROSSING SURFACE AT DOT# 076238S CSAH 5 IN KIMBERLY, MN APPROXIMATELY 100' TO THE EAST OF EXISTING.

PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCE IS FHWA

** BUY AMERICA(N) APPLIES **

PLAN ITEM	LINE SEG	BEG MP	END MP	TRK NBR	BEGIN STATION	END STATION	PROJECT TYPE	BUD YEAR
979010000	27	79.69	79.69	S	KIMBERLY	KIMBERLY	PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	2026

	CASH CAPITAL	NONCASH CAPITAL	OPERATING EXP	REMOVAL COSTS	BILLABLE	TOTALS
LABOR COSTS	0	0	0	0	81,770	81,770
MATERIAL COSTS	0	0	0	0	72,474	72,474
OTHER COSTS	0	0	0	0	14,466	14,466
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	168,710	168,710

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING
 ESTIMATE REF. NUMBER: 5909826
 COSTING DATE: 01/12/2026

PRINTED ON: 01/12/2026
 ESTIMATED BY: JOHNSON
 PRINTED BY: JOHNSON

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY
 FHPM ESTIMATE FOR
 AITKIN COUNTY

LOCATION KIMBERLY

DETAILS OF ESTIMATE

PLAN ITEM : 979010000

VERSION : 2

PURPOSE, JUSTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

PIP TCE DIV BRAINERD SUB LS 27 MP 79.69 DOT#076238S 100% BILLABLE TO AITKIN COUNTY MN. RELOCATE THE CROSSING SURFACE AT DOT# 076238S CSAH 5 IN KIMBERLY, MN APPROXIMATELY 100' TO THE EAST OF EXISTING.

REQUESTED BY ALEX FIORINI 4/24/24
 PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCE IS FHWA
 ** BUY AMERICA(N) APPLIES **

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	U/M	COST	TOTAL \$

LABOR				

PLACE FIELD WELDS - CAP	171.0	MH	7,382	
REMOVE PUBLIC CROSSING	86.4	MH	3,974	
REPLACE PUBLIC CROSSING - TOTAL REHAB	80.0	MH	3,257	
REPLACE TRACK PANELS - CAP	27.0	MH	1,100	
SIGNAL FIELD LABOR - CAP	5.0	MH	303	
SURFACE TRACK - REPLACEMENT - CAP	51.0	MH	2,157	
UNLOAD BALLAST - REPLACEMENT - CAP	2.0	MH	82	
UNLOAD CROSSING MATERIAL - PUBLIC - CAP	40.0	MH	1,629	
UNLOAD TRACK PANELS - REPLACEMENT	13.0	MH	530	
PAYROLL ASSOCIATED COSTS			12,956	
DA OVERHEADS			24,101	
EQUIPMENT EXPENSES			20,256	
INSURANCE EXPENSES			4,043	
TOTAL LABOR COST			81,770	81,770

MATERIAL				

BALLAST NT, SYSTEM AVERAGE COST	400.0	NT **	7,092	
PANEL, TRACK; 60FT; 136LB; SC; 10FT; STD; WOOD	2.0	EA **	23,726	
RAIL, TRANS, 136N; 132W; 40 FT; UNVRSL	8.0	EA	9,848	
SIGNAL MATERIAL	99.0	EA	99	
SPIKE, TBR SCREW 3/4" X 13", F/ROAD XING	180.0	EA **	553	
WELDKIT, GENERIC FOR ALL RAIL WEIGHTS	16.0	KT **	1,312	
CROSSING, CONCRETE PANELS; 10 FT TIES TANGENT	80.0	FT **	14,910	
XING CONC RAMP 136LB COMPLETE SET	1.0	ST **	349	
MATERIAL HANDLING			2,890	
ONLINE TRANSPORTATION			6,200	
USE TAX			4,859	
OFFLINE TRANSPORTATION			636	
TOTAL MATERIAL COST			72,474	72,474

OTHER				

TOTAL OTHER ITEMS COST			0	0
PROJECT SUBTOTAL				154,244
CONTINGENCIES				12,795
BILL PREPARATION FEE				1,671
GROSS PROJECT COST				168,710
LESS COST PAID BY BNSF				0
TOTAL BILLABLE COST				168,710