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## LETTER OF INTENT TO COLLABOATE

Whereas changes are happening rapidly in the transportation sector: and

Whereas the economic well-being of many sectors in the Northern Great Plains region agriculture, manufacturing, energy and environment, and information technology-depends upon a healthy transportation network; and

Whereas the integrity of the transportation network on which other sectors depend crosses state and national boundaries; and .

Whereas representatives of our respective transportation and economic development agencies have served for three years as the advisory committee to the "Transportation, Trade and Economic Development: Maximizing Future Opportunities" project managed by Northern Great Plains Inc. a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to develop and implement regional solutions to issues, concerns and opportunities in the Northern Great Plains that can best be addressed through regionally focused action; and

Whereas these representatives have had a fruitful working relationship and have developed a better understanding of regional transportation and related economic development issues and opportunities as a result of this project;

We the undersigned agree to work together to address issues of common interest, many of which are identified in the report "Toward New Horizons: Trends in Transportation and Trade - Moving the Northern Great Plains Region to a Stronger Economic Future" and its recommendations, including cooperation on policy, programmatic, operational, and research activities as deemed appropriate;

We also agree to continue the cooperation that has been achieved between our respective transportation and economic development agencies by naming representatives to a Northern Great Plains Working Group on Transportation and the Economy, whose structure, mission and program will be defined in future agreements.

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2002

Original Signed By:  
Mark Wandro, Director  
Iowa Department of Transportation

Original Signed By:  
C. J. Niles, Director  
Iowa Department of Economic Development,

Original Signed By:  
Honourable Steve Ashton  
Manitoba Transportation and  
Government Services

Original Signed By:  
Honourable Mary Ann Mihychuk  
Manitoba Industry Trade and Mines

Original Signed By:

Elwyn Tinklenberg, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Transportation

Original Signed By:

Rebecca Yanisch, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic  
Development

Original Signed By:

Dave Sprynczynatyk, Director  
North Dakota Department of  
Transportation

Original Signed By:

Linda Butts, Director  
North Dakota Economic Development  
and Finance

Original Signed By:

Honourable Mark Wartman  
Saskatchewan Highways and  
Transportation

Original Signed By:

Honourable Eldon Lautermilch  
Saskatchewan Industry and Resources

Original Signed By B. Osborn for

Ronald W. Wheeler, Secretary  
South Dakota Department of  
Transportation

Original Signed By:

Chris Braendlin, Commissioner  
South Dakota Governor's Office of

Original Signed By:

Al Wenstrand, Director  
Nebraska Department of Economic  
Development

Original Signed By:

John Craig, Director  
Nebraska Department of Roads