LETTER OF INTENT TO COLLABORATE

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 14th day of May 2002

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

Original Signed By:  Original Signed By:
Honourable Steve Ashton  Honourable Mary Ann Mihychuk
Manitoba Transportation and  Manitoba Industry Trade and Mines
Government Services