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June 20, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to request your fullest consideration of Colorado Department of Transportation's application for the Better Utilization of Transportation Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program, and encourage you to grant this request. This project addresses a critical transportation need in Colorado, and El Paso County.

This project makes improvements on I-25 and South Academy Boulevard near Fort Carson and Colorado State Highway 94 near Schriever Air Force Base (AFB). On I-25, this project would extend an acceleration lane for onramps, add an exit lane on southbound I-25, and open new access to Gate 19 Fort Carson-Charter Oaks Ranch Road. The project also would add a median barrier, widen shoulders, replace failing asphalt pavement with concrete pavement, and widen and replace failing bridge decks over South Academy Boulevard.

Fort Carson is a critical Army post and the largest federal military installation in the state of Colorado. The post provides support services and recreational activities to Pueblo, Fremont and El Paso Counties. El Paso County houses the fifth largest military retirement community in the country with over 180,000 active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members, military family members and veterans are served by Fort Carson.

Fort Carson is also the second largest employer in the state of Colorado, with a work force of approximately 35,000 soldiers and civilian employees. Between post operation and construction expenditures, soldier income, and Department of the Army civilian income, Fort Carson provides an estimated \$1.7 billion in direct stimulus to the state and regional economies on an annual basis. As an essential employment and training facility that supports the State of Colorado, it is essential to support Fort Carson with this grant.

Schriever AFB is a nationally significant military installation. As reported by CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew after conversations with military officials in El Paso County, Schriever solely operates the national GPS constellation of more than 30 satellites that provides

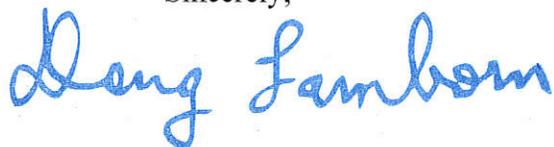
worldwide precision, navigation, and timing services to approximately four billion users for both military and civilian purposes. GPS supports mapping and global commerce worldwide. GPS is estimated to provide \$68.7 billion in economic benefits to the U.S. It is used in the geospatial services ecosystem resulting in \$1.6 trillion in revenues and \$1.4 trillion in cost savings to the U.S. economy. Schriever's economic impact in the local area for fiscal year 2018 was \$1.35 billion. It is a vitally important defense installation to both our local and national economies. I am sure I do not need to impress upon the Secretary of Transportation how critical is to our way of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

With 7,000 people working at Schriever AFB, 511 new personnel expected over the next year, and a future increase in growth due to defense priorities, along with up to 9,000 new housing units nearby in future years, addressing mobility concerns along SH 94 should be a top consideration during CDOT's planning process, as I have communicated to Director Lew.

The project also includes safety, mobility and military access improvements along State Highway 94 include westbound passing lanes, lighting and signage improvements, intersection enhancements, and congestion mitigation of corridor climbing lanes. Overall, this project will enhance the safety of the roadway network that serves the community's industrial and commercial needs as well as providing a reliable connection between the military installations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important BUILD grant. I ask that you give the grant application submitted by the Colorado Department of Transportation every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. I believe that the funds to improve access to Fort Carson and Schriever Air Force Base are deserving of federal support on its own merits. Your full review and consideration of the state's funding request would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention, and please inform my office of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress