



COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

April 19, 2019

Honorable Douglas L. Lamborn
United States House of Representatives
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Lamborn:

Colorado State Highway (SH) 94, as the lone major access road leading to Schriever Air Force Base (AFB), is a vital infrastructure asset for both the growing population of El Paso County and the entire state economy. I have requested that the extraordinary state and national benefits of maintaining proper access to this nationally significant military installation be properly considered during the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) planning process.

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.

Mobility to and from the site is required. Recently, Schriever leadership was notified that 5,322 acres between SH 94 and the installation, just east of Enoch Road, has been purchased. The developer plans 8,951 housing units on property adjacent to Schriever. Colorado must consider the importance of transportation infrastructure in providing access to this facility, and to nearby Peterson AFB, and support their missions.

Currently, SH 94 is one lane in each direction, with a steep incline, narrow shoulders, and without capacity for passing by cars and trucks – which are prevalent at the site. CDOT, as reported by Director Lew, is currently working on various capacity and safety improvements on SH 94 to the west of Enoch Rd. toward the City of Colorado Springs. Eastbound improvements will be made to improve flow and safety for the large hill area near the El Paso County waste facility, including improving a merge condition. Other improvements being designed include westbound passing lanes in the section between Schriever and the city. Improved lighting is also a safety consideration that is being looked at, as Schriever is a 24-hour facility. Construction funding for these enhancements is estimated to be between \$7.0 million and \$10.0 million. CDOT is working to identify funding sources for these improvements.



Additionally, safety improvements at the intersection of SH 94 and Peyton Rd. (east of Schriever) are scheduled for advertisement in October 2019 and are fully funded.

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.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Governor

