

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Secretary Ray LaHood
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the nine members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, we are writing to urge you to provide TIGER Discretionary Grant Program funding for critically needed transportation projects in our great state. The Colorado Department of Transportation has submitted applications to the USDOT for a number of worthy projects. We write in strong support of these three projects.

The first priority is the I-25 North Interim Managed Lanes Project in north metropolitan Denver. This project would bring immediate relief to one of Colorado's busiest and most congested interstate corridors. This project adds one new managed lane with variable tolls in each direction on a six-mile stretch of I-25 from US 36 north of downtown Denver to 120th Avenue in Adams County. This new capacity will create a managed-lane network that would connect to existing lanes on I-25 in downtown Denver and soon-to-be-completed lanes on US 36 between Denver and Boulder. In the current fiscal climate, states are being challenged to do more with less. This project puts this concept into practice and proposes to maximize the existing roadway by narrowing the inside shoulder. This approach requires no additional right-of-way. All told, this \$44 million project is \$100 million less than the original cost estimate for constructing new lanes along this stretch in a traditional configuration.

Funding for the second priority project, the I-25 Fillmore Interchange Project in Colorado Springs would help improve traffic flow for another critical segment of I-25. This section of I-25, which provides significant military movement and access for staff at Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, and the Air Force Academy, is plagued with high traffic volumes and congestion. Additionally, the project helps provide access for a nearby VA hospital. The I-25 Fillmore Interchange Project would relieve congestion by replacing the current obsolete interchange with an innovative diverging diamond interchange. Recognizing that budgets are constrained and resources are scarce, this project will innovatively utilize the standing bridge structure to avoid full reconstruction of the interchange. Because of this approach, the project is estimated to save taxpayers over \$20 million in design and construction costs while achieving similar operational benefits to the previous planned single point interchange design.

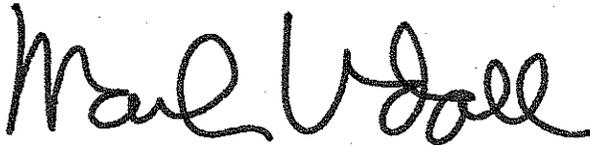
The third priority project, the I-25 Dillon-Eden Interchange Project in Pueblo, would greatly improve access to I-25 for the region's manufacturing firms, commercial operations, retail businesses and service industries. By constructing a split diamond interchange, this needed

transportation improvement will provide new access to I-25 to local residents and businesses alike while easing congestion. Most importantly, this interchange is an important component for economic development opportunities in the Pueblo area.

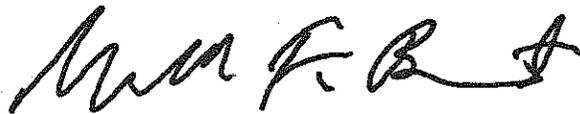
We strongly believe that each of these transportation priorities are deserving of a grant on its own merits and has significant ramifications for long-term outcomes for national, state and regional transportation. We are happy to provide you with any further information you may need and hope you will work closely with us and the State of Colorado to ensure that worthy projects are adequately funded through the TIGER IV Grant Program.

We ask that you give the grant applications submitted by the State of Colorado every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your attention, and please notify our offices of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



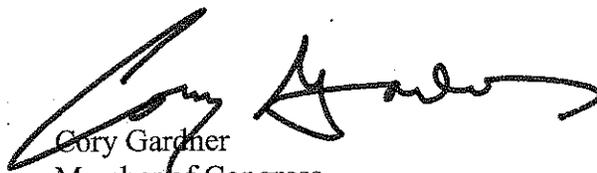
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

cc. Victor Mendez