

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to ask for your full and fair consideration of a Fiscal Year 2020 INFRA grant proposal for the Interstate 70 (I-70) Vail Pass Safety and Operations Improvements project. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is requesting \$60 million of the \$140 million total project cost. This phase of the project will add 5 miles of eastbound auxiliary lane, reconstruct two curves to improve substandard geometry, install signage to assist with safety, upgrade a truck escape ramp and install wildlife mitigation safety measures. These improvements are needed to prevent crashes, fatalities, and closures that have occurred all too frequently on this highway.

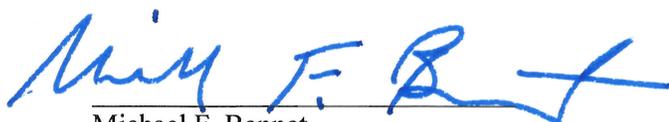
Interstate 70 is a National Freight corridor and a key economic driver in the state of Colorado. As a gateway to recreation, this highway is heavily used by trucks and connects travelers east and west of the Continental Divide. West Vail Pass is prone to closures due to weather events, as well as spin outs and crashes as a result of its substandard geometry. This project will improve these challenges, and reduce the number of closures, which will in turn improve travel time reliability and reduce the negative economic impact to the state when the road closes.

Based on historic and projected population and employment levels, both passenger and freight traffic volumes will continue to increase and impact I-70. This project will address many of the physical constraints on this road that will improve safety for the travelling public and enhance connectivity to the rest of the freight network in the United States. The I-70 Vail Pass Safety and Operations Improvements project is embracing technology and innovation through its comprehensive signage plan, utilizing cutting edge variable messaging signs and Active Traffic Management systems. This use of technology will increase communication with drivers and ensure travel time reliability.

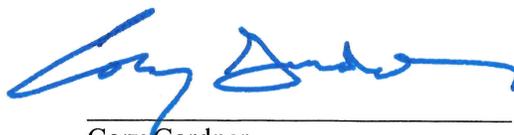
Our communities that lie along this corridor value safety, systems preservation, and connections to other areas so much that they committed \$12.5 million of their future funding to this project. We depend on this corridor for freight transports and to facilitate tourism, recreation, and access to natural resources for our economic livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration of CDOT's application for this worthy project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress