



October 30, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado, I am writing to express support for the INFRA grant application that is being submitted jointly by El Paso and Douglas Counties in Colorado for the I-25 Gap Project. This \$350 million project is requesting a \$65 million INFRA investment which would match a \$250 million commitment from the Colorado Department of Transportation and \$35 million of local funds to facilitate construction of an additional lane in each direction and other safety related improvements along the 18-mile portion of the I-25 South corridor between Monument and Castle Rock that is commonly referred to as "the Gap." This section of the interstate is still the original roadbed and two-lane-in-each-direction facility that was constructed in the middle of the last century under the Eisenhower administration. The interstate has been modernized and improved north of Castle Rock and south of Monument. This "Gap" can be viewed as the congestive hourglass between the major metro areas of Colorado Springs/Air Force Academy, and Denver. The present four-lane road creates dangerous bottle necks at both ends of this "Gap." The Gap has claimed the lives of two Colorado State Troopers in the last 18 months, and has daily operation and safety incidents.

The I-25 Gap Project is a nationally and regionally significant project, providing a vital link not only for sectors of the regional economy, but also for the movement of goods throughout the state. This stretch of I-25 between Monument and Castle Rock is a critical economic backbone to corridor communities and travelers as I-25 is the only north-south interstate route through Colorado, connecting the state's largest population centers, provides evacuation and incident management on local and national levels, and provides access to tourism, recreation and cultural amenities. This project will increase the viability of all aspects of the interstate system in a safe and efficient manner. Castle Rock is one of the fastest growing communities in the nation and this project will not only improve safety along the I-25 corridor, but will improve the local and regional economy creating jobs.

We strongly support's this grant application for the I-25 South Gap Project and encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jennifer Green
Mayor

CC: Castle Rock Town Council