

CORY GARDNER
COLORADO

SUITE SR-354
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 18, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

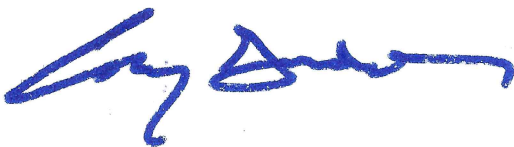
I write to request your full and fair consideration of the application submitted by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation for funding under the United States Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

The Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with El Paso County, the City of Colorado Springs, and the City of Fountain, is seeking funding for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park Project. This project aims to develop a dual-service heavy industrial rail park in Southern Colorado that would help support competitive rail rates and intermodal transportation, while also providing rapid deployment redundancy for Fort Carson.

Funding through the BUILD grant program will support the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park Project partnership as they develop the rail design, prepare site utilities and storm water, and complete a traffic study, as well as establish full permitting.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator

MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC:
261 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:
CESAR E. CHAVEZ BUILDING
1244 SPEER BOULEVARD
DENVER, CO 80204
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>

May 11, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation (the Chamber & EDC) to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program. If awarded, the Chamber & EDC will fund the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado.

The Chamber & EDC were founding members of the US Chamber of Commerce and have been in existence for more than 100 years. Serving as the area's largest chamber of commerce and economic development organization, the Chamber & EDC works to build and maintain a business climate in which companies can thrive to fuel a diverse economy and high quality of life.

In order to demonstrate the feasibility for an industrial rail project, a public-private partnership was formed for a multi-year initiative to address a wide range of transportation needs in rural Southeastern Colorado. In the process, partners have also identified a viable way to address the growth of Fort Carson to create high quality jobs for military veterans. With BUILD funds, the project will prepare a "shovel ready" design and full permitting extension of a rail spur to the boundary of Fort Carson to transverse Colorado Springs Utilities Nixon Power plant to access dual service main railroad lines of Burlington Northern and Union Pacific.

This proposal serves as both an economic development tool to attract companies that need rail shipping options and enhances mission readiness deployment capability at Fort Carson. I encourage you to give the grant application submitted by the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation every appropriate review consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your review, and please notify my office of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

DOUG LAMBORN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER,
READINESS
TACTICAL AIR & LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

2371 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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DISTRICT OFFICE:

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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80920
719-520-0055
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Website: Lamborn.house.gov

Facebook: [@CongressmanDougLamborn](https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanDougLamborn)

Twitter: [@RepDLamborn](https://twitter.com/RepDLamborn)

March 8, 2020

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

Re: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado

I write in strong support of the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado. This regional initiative is supported by a remarkable public/private partnership. The City of Colorado Springs and City of Fountain and El Paso County government have joined with an international private company and its locally managed asphalt paving operation to collaboratively demonstrate the feasibility for an industrial rail project.

The Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park is a community-driven, regional economic development initiative. This collaborative effort has resulted in a feasible transportation project that will: create the only dual-service heavy industrial rail park in Southern Colorado, generate economic growth and create high quality jobs for our military veterans, and enhance the mission readiness and rapid deployment capability for Fort Carson.

This critical infrastructure will facilitate development of a large-scale industrial rail park with competitive rail rates and intermodal capabilities. In addition to providing a catalyst for industrial development, the rail spur extension will strengthen the nation's military readiness and resiliency. Specifically, the project will create an opportunity for secondary rail service access to Fort Carson, which will improve the Army's rapid deployment capabilities. Also, the Project will improve access from Fort Carson to Piñon Canyon for training exercises, advancing Fort Carson's training mission.

Fort Carson is 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.

The project partners have collectively invested more than a half a million dollars in the multi-year initiative. They have identified infrastructure funding options, but urgently need this Planning Grant approved to bring the project to a "shovel ready" condition.

Thank you for your consideration of this important BUILD grant. I ask that you give the application submitted by the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. I believe that the planning funds to develop the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado is deserving of federal support on its own merits. Your full review and consideration of this critical funding request would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention, and please inform my office of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Lamborn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" and last name "Lamborn" clearly distinguishable.

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603
May 15, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao:

As the representative for the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado, I am pleased to support the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado's BUILD Grant Application. The rail yard will help create economic development opportunities for companies that don't currently have shipping options in the region and assist Ft. Carson readiness and increased troop deployment options and efficiency.

A public/private partnership has created this regional initiative with support by the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation. The cities of Colorado Springs and Fountain and the El Paso County government are collaborating with an international private company and its local asphalt paving division to demonstrate the feasibility of this industrial rail project.

The project partners have collectively invested more than a half a million dollars in this multi-year initiative. They have identified infrastructure capital options, but they urgently need funding to initiate this project. The partners have identified a viable way to address the growth of Fort Carson while creating high quality jobs for our military veterans. Furthermore, the enhancement of mission readiness and deployment capability at Fort Carson will be a major benefit that a new rail connection provides.

I recognize the significant budget challenges faced by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the importance of maximizing the impact of those limited resources. I encourage a comprehensive and fair review of the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado's BUILD Grant application by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT CARSON
1626 ELLIS STREET, SUITE 200
FORT CARSON, CO 80913-4143

May 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Fort Carson's Need for a Second Rail Connection

City of Fountain
Attention: Mr. Scott Trainor, City Manager
116 South Main Street
Fountain, CO 80817

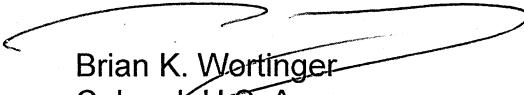
Dear Mr. Trainor:

Fort Carson understands that the Colorado Springs community is submitting a USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado. Two Cities and a County government have joined with an international private company to collaboratively develop this industrial rail project on the eastern boundary of Fort Carson.

Fort Carson is in need of a second rail connection to facilitate the movement of military equipment in support of military deployments around the world. Our only rail connect off of Fort Carson has seven points of vulnerability and if interrupted, eliminates our ability to rail military equipment until the existing rail infrastructure is fixed. A second rail connection would dramatically increase the reliability of rail operations for Fort Carson.

Fort Carson has raised with Army leadership our concern regarding the installation's current rail capacity. Please note this letter is not an endorsement of this project, nor is it a guarantee that Fort Carson will expend future funds to increase rail capacity. However, the community led effort to develop a rail business park would potentially support Fort Carson's future need to connect to rail off our eastern boundary, subject to the availability of funds. We will be interested to see how this community led rail business park project develops.

Respectfully yours,


Brian K. Wortinger
Colonel, U.S. Army
Garrison Commander



102 S. Tejon Street, Suite 430 | Colorado Springs, CO 80903 | P 719.471.8183 | F 719.471.9733 | www.cscedc.com

May 15, 2020

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

RE: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado

I write regarding the BUILD Planning Grant submitted for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado. Full design and permitting for this rail project are timely based on your approval of the FY2019 BUILD Project entitled *Colorado Military Access, Mobility & Safety Improvement Project*. As construction starts for the upgraded Charter Oak Ranch Road to serve Fort Carson's Gate 19, now is an excellent time to bring this rail project to "shovel ready."

Public and private stakeholders in the Pikes Peak region have demonstrated their enthusiasm for empowering rail to address local challenges by investing over \$500,000 in the past two years for project development. The Fiscal Impact Study (Appendix D) completed by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Corporation shows that 5,000 quality jobs will be generated for our military veterans and the community by creation of the industrial rail park. The Chamber & EDC, as Fiscal Sponsor, is fully committed to the project as described in Table 5 of the planning grant application. I strongly encourage you to affirm this community's collaborative initiative by approving the BUILD Planning Grant application.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dirk D. Draper".

Dirk D. Draper
President and CEO
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC



COLORADO

Transportation Commission

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Pueblo, District 10

Shannon Gifford

Denver, District 1

Don Stanton

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Arapahoe Cty, District 3

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Barbara Vasquez

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Kathy Hall

Grand Junction, District 7

Sidny Zink

Durango, District 8

Irv Halter

Colorado Springs, District 9

Gary Beedy

Genoa, District 11

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

Re: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado

As a Transportation Commissioner in the State of Colorado, I am writing to encourage your approval of a 2020 BUILD Rural Planning Grant that dovetails with our efforts to support Fort Carson in 2019. Construction has begun on the Charter Oak Ranch Road Improvements, one of four projects in Colorado's Region 2 to support our nation's armed forces. Planning, design and permitting a new dual-service rail spur (BNSF & UPRR) to the Fort Carson boundary creates the possibility for a second rail access, identified as a priority objective in the Pikes Peak Area Council of Government's 2018 Joint Land Use Study. Within two years of a BUILD Planning Grant award for this rural area, the rail project will be "shovel ready", and when completed reduce freight truck traffic along the corridor.

A planned railroad industrial development is also planned, which is the result of an initiative of public and private stakeholders in the Pikes Peak region. The P3 has invested over \$500,000 in the past two years for project development. The project partners have opened a dialogue with the Federal Rail Administration investigating infrastructure funding alternatives. A grant award for planning to the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado in support military readiness offers a multiplier on Colorado's recent transportation expenditures while simultaneously expanding rail transportation capacity and jobs for military veterans along the Front Range.

Thank you for your support for our men and women in uniform and the citizens of rural Southern Colorado.

Respectfully yours,

Irving L. Halter, Maj Gen (ret), USAF
Colorado Transportation Commissioner, District 9





May 1, 2020

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

RE: FY 2020 BUILD grant for Front Range Dual-Served Rail Park Planning Study

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of Fountain and the Fountain Urban Renewal Authority (FURA), I am writing to express support for a FY 2020 BUILD grant proposal for the Front Range Dual-Served Rail Park Planning Study. This phase of the project as proposed completes the planning, design, and engineering of railroad infrastructure for an industrial Rail Park in the City of Fountain adjacent to Fort Carson in Southern Colorado.

The completed Front Range Dual-Served Rail Park will be on 3,000 acres of rural land next to the Colorado Springs Utilities' Nixon Power Plant. The first phase of the project aims to extend the existing Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) shared rail spur from the main railroad corridor along Interstate 25 across private property to Fort Carson. This critical infrastructure will facilitate development of a large-scale industrial rail park with competitive rail rates and intermodal capabilities.

As the proposed Rail Park is adjacent to the Interstate 25 National Highway Freight Network corridor, it will be a key economic driver in the state of Colorado. The BNSF and UP railroad corridor along the property is also part of the Department of Defense's Strategic Rail Corridor Network, or STRACNET, defined as critical to national defense serving over 193 military installations, including Fort Carson.

A built-out industrial park at this location is expected to create more than 5,000 good-paying jobs, many of which are likely to be well suited to decommissioning military personnel not only from Fort Carson but the other four military installations in the region. Access to Fort Carson via the Rail Park would also reduce the number of closures that occur when deploying large equipment convoys that could be immediately loaded onto the national rail network instead of highways. This in turn preserves Interstate 25 for other freight and travel uses, extending the life of the roadway while also improving safety. It also improves travel time reliability and reduces the negative economic impact to the state when road closures are precipitated by Fort Carson.

FURA has gathered cooperation and match funding for this public-private partnership from several parties, including City of Colorado Springs, City of Fountain, El Paso County, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation, and the Edw. C. Levy Corporation. The group has also enlisted the interest and support of Fort Carson leadership. Colorado depends on our freight corridors for our economic livelihood.

We whole-heartedly support this project and request USDOT to prioritize BUILD grant funding for this worthy proposal.



Sincerely,

Jenyce Houg, Chair, Colorado Freight Advisory Council
Houg Logistics & Transportation Resources

cc: Mike Ogborn, Vice Chair, Colorado Freight Advisory Council
Michelle Scheuerman, FAC Secretary and CDOT Senior Transportation Advisor



Susan Odom
Manager Contracts and Joint Facilities

BNSF Contracts and Joint Facilities

BNSF Railway Company
2500 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76131

817-352-4939 phone
682-429-0930 mobile

email susan.odom@bnsf.com

May 8, 2020

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

Re: FY 2020 BUILD grant for Front Range Dual-served Rail Park Planning Study

Dear Secretary Chao:

BNSF is pleased to hear about the City of Fountain's interest in developing an industrial park within the Enterprise Zone located around Ray D. Nixon Power Plant (Nixon) and Fort Carson. This letter is written to provide you with information regarding railroad operations and access to industries that may choose to develop sites in the area.

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) and Union Pacific Railroad (UP) jointly operate the route between Denver and Pueblo under the terms of various joint facility agreements. Most of the route consists of two main lines – one owned by BNSF, the other by UP. The railroads operate directionally through these double track corridors, utilizing the westerly of the two tracks for southbound trains and the easterly line for northbound trains. Operations are bi-directional between Crews/Kelker and Palmer Lake.

The specific agreement that addresses service to Nixon stipulates that BNSF may directly serve customers whose tracks connect to the BNSF-owned line and UP may directly serve customers whose tracks connect to the UP-owned line. Unless a waiver or some other special permission is granted, neither railroad may directly serve customers from the other railroad's main line trackage through either of the double tracked portions of the route.

As you may know, each railroad has a direct connection to the Nixon Spur from its respective main line – BNSF on the southbound route at approximately 0.40-mile north of the I-25/rail overpass used to serve Nixon and UP on the northbound route at approximately three miles south of the I-25/rail overpass. Consequently, from a joint facility perspective, both railroads have the right to enter into agreements with the owner of the spur in order to allow them to directly serve customers located within the planned industrial park.

Further to the north, the railroads merge to a single track operation, beginning at approximately 0.30-mile south of Duckwood Road in Fountain and ending in Palmer Lake, CO. Within this corridor, both railroads have commercial access to all new customers that choose to locate along the single track facilities. This would include the trackage serving Fort Carson near South Academy Boulevard in Colorado Springs.

I trust this provides you with helpful information in reviewing the City's grant application.

Sincerely,

Susan Odom

Manager Contracts and Joint Facilities



BUILDING AMERICA®

May 8, 2020

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

RE: 2020 BUILD Grant – Fountain, CO Front Range Dual-Served Rail Park Planning Study

Dear Secretary Chao:

Union Pacific supports the City of Fountain, Colorado's BUILD application for the *Front Range Dual-Served Rail Park Planning Study*, which will complete planning, design and engineering for a new rail-served industrial park.

When constructed, the 3,000 acre rail park, located next to Colorado Springs Utilities' Nixon Power Plant on the Department of Defense's Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) property, is expected to create more than 5,000 jobs.

If awarded a grant, Union Pacific will continue working with the City of Fountain to ensure all plans meet current standards and safety requirements.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Liisa Stark

BOB GARDNER
State Senator
State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203
bob.gardner.senate@state.co.us



COMMITTEES
Member of:
Judiciary
Appropriations
Committee on
Legal Services

**SENATE
STATE OF COLORADO
DENVER**

May 14, 2020

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

Re: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado

Dear Madam Secretary:

As a Colorado State Senator representing Southern Colorado, I urge the approval of the USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado.

This project is critical both for national defense and the economic vitality of our region. The rail park will assist Ft. Carson in rapid troop mobilization and deployment, as well as attract new companies requiring rail shipping options to Colorado's Front Range. Due to the critical need and economic benefits for so many of our communities, the project is being managed by a public/private partnership that includes the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation, two cities, a county government, an international private company and a locally-managed asphalt paving operation. This remarkable collaboration is just the sort of model the Department of Transportation seeks to support.

The project partners have collectively invested more than a half a million dollars in the multi-year initiative and have identified infrastructure funding options. The planning grant will provide funding to bring the project to a "shovel ready" condition.

As a state senator, I have devoted substantial attention to the economic development and transportation needs in Southern Colorado and am familiar with our most critical needs for our military installations and broader economy. This project is a priority. Please approve this planning grant to allow us to bring these benefits to fruition.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Gardner", is written over a horizontal line.

Bob Gardner
State Senator
District 12

Bce



RESOLUTION NO. 20-174

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF EL PASO, STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A BUILD GRANT APPLICATION

FOR RAIL-SERVED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 30-11-101(1)(e) and 30-11-107(1)(e), the Board of County Commissioners of the County of El Paso, State of Colorado (hereinafter "Board" or "County"), has the legislative authority to represent the County and manage the business and concerns of the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CRS §§ 30-11-101(1)(d), each organized county within the state shall be a body corporate and politic and as such shall be empowered for the following purposes: "(d) To make all contracts and do all other acts in relation to the property and concerns necessary to the exercise of its corporate or administrative powers;" and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. § 29-1-203, provides authority for the County to cooperate or contract with other governmental entities to provide any function, service or facility lawfully authorized to each of the cooperating or contracting government units, when deemed by the Board to be beneficial to the citizens of El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, the County, in an effort to provide for additional job opportunities for its residents, funded the investigation of the viability of an economic initiative for job creation in southern El Paso County that included rail services, resulting in a Proof of Concept Report dated September 15, 2015, concluding that a rail-served industrial development is potentially viable; and

WHEREAS, in order to undertake the next phase of the Rail-Served Economic Development Initiative (the "Initiative"), the County, the City of Fountain ("Fountain"), the City of Colorado Springs ("Colorado Springs"), the Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC ("EDC"), and Edw. C. Levy Co. ("Levy") (all collectively referred to hereinafter as the "Parties") entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for Rail-Served Economic Development Initiative dated May 3, 2018 ("MOU") which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Parties for the Initiative, including funding commitments which they have agreed to provide, and Colorado Springs Utilities ("CSU") has provided a letter of conditional support; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the MOU and its funding, the Parties completed a Feasibility Study prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc. which concludes that the dual served industrial rail park is feasible and could provide a transportation project that will create access to reliable, safe, and affordable freight rail services, will create jobs and facilitate economic growth and development in rural Southern Colorado, and will improve rapid deployment capability, readiness and resiliency for the Fort Carson Military Reservation (Fort Carson); and

WHEREAS, the next step in the potential development of this new rail park is to complete further design and engineering to determine the specific rail alignment through the Nixon Power Plan

property and the alignment through the Levy property to the boundary of Fort Carson, including analysis of security issues, as well as preliminary engineering regarding utility service to the new park; and

WHEREAS, the Parties believe that funding from a USDOT BUILD Transportation Planning Grant (the "Grant") could be available to assist in funding this additional design, engineering and planning work; and

WHEREAS, and Board of County Commissioners has determined that it would serve the best interests of the public and is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of El Paso County to continue to support this initiative and support an application for the Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of County Commissioners hereby approves of the filing of the Grant application and hereby provides its support to the Grant and urges an award of the Grant as it is in the best interests of the County and its residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mark Waller, duly elected, qualified member and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, or Longinos Gonzales, duly elected, qualified member and Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, be and is hereby appointed and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to carry out the intent of the Board as described herein.

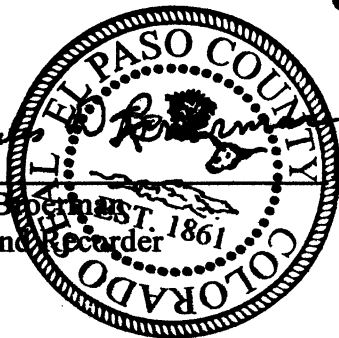
DONE THIS 12th day of May, 2020, at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO**

By: _____

Chuck Bepko
Clerk and Recorder



By: _____

Mark Waller, Chair



John W. Suthers
Mayor

May 12, 2020

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

RE: USDOT BUILD Transportation Planning Grant Application – Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park Southern Colorado Project

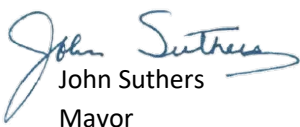
Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Colorado Springs wholeheartedly supports a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage (BUILD) Transportation Planning Grant Application submitted by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation. For several years, our local governments have collaborated with a private property owner to bring forward a critical new rail connection for the Fort Carson Military Reservation. The new rail spur would be the first element and stimulus needed to create a new industrial rail park which will provide much needed new manufacturing opportunities to our region. The approximately 3,000 acre new rail park, which is ideally located between the City's power plant and Fort Carson, would benefit from the economic advantage of enjoying dual service from two Class I railroads. It is anticipated that the new rail park would create 6,000+ new jobs in our region, many of which would be in Colorado Springs.

The creation of a second rail access to Fort Carson would greatly increase its readiness and resiliency while dramatically improving the rapid deployment capability of this important military training facility. The jobs created in the rail park will provide excellent post-service employment opportunities for the numerous veterans who transition from military to civilian life annually and prefer to remain in Southern Colorado.

Four years of effort between public and private interests (the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Edw. C. Levy Company, the City of Fountain, and the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corp.) has proven that this new rail spur to Fort Carson and adjacent industrial rail park are feasible and would provide economic benefits to the area and solutions to many significant transportation challenges in the region. The City of Colorado Springs strongly encourages your timely approval of this important BUILD Transportation Planning Grant to facilitate the further planning and engineering needed to bring this important project to fruition.

Sincerely,


John Suthers
Mayor


Richard Skorman
City Council President


Jill Gaebler
Utilities Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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City of Colorado Springs
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Andrew Gunning
Executive Director



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

May 5, 2020

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

Re: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) supports a rural designation project known as the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado residing within El Paso County Colorado. The project is requesting planning funds towards the completion of planning, design, engineering, and NEPA compliance in the attainment of Class 1 railroad operational approval and shovel ready status for both military and private development.

The Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado represents 3,000+ acres of rural land situated between two pre-existing heavy industrial users: Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) Nixon Power Plant and Fort Carson Army Installation. CSU plant already amasses a hearty rail loop infrastructure and Class I dual-service access, which supports the extension of a dual service rail spur to harbor commercial development and end of line rail head connectivity for Fort Carson. The rail spur extension will derive a secondary rail head for both homeland security deployments and military convoy training to and from the Pinon Canon Maneuver Area; availing both resiliency and redundancy capacities for the State of Colorado's largest employer, Fort Carson.

As recent as 2019, the Colorado Military Access, Mobility & Safety Improvement Project was awarded USDOT BUILD Grant funding. As cited by the State of Colorado DOT application, the U.S. Army designated Charter Oak Ranch Road is important to national defense (p.16), whereas, that construction investment to upgrade Charter Oak Ranch Road opens the possibility to derive a second rail access point for Fort Carson. Within the PPACG 2018 Joint Land Use Study, a secondary rail access point was identified as a top priority objective for the Army Installation and Pikes Peak region.

Under a multi-year, public-private partnership (P3) endeavor the Pikes Peak regional partners have invested \$500,000+ towards enhancing the mission readiness and deployment capacity for Fort Carson Army Installation while generating high quality jobs for our military veterans via the tandem industrial rail park development. The regional P3 urgently needs this Planning Grant approval via the USDOT to bring the project into a "shovel ready" condition and avail resiliency and redundancy capacities for Fort Carson.

The Charter Oak Road investment and the Rail Park project's scope align with PPACG's Strategic Plan goals to promote regional transportation infrastructure that supports and enhances the economic vitality of the region and promotes compatibility between the region's military installations and the surrounding community.

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Board of Directors respectfully request you award a USDOT BUILD Grant for planning funds of a rural designation project to the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado.

Sincerely,

Jill Gaebler
Board Chair, Pikes Peak Area of Governments



May 1, 2020

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

Re: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park Project of Southern Colorado

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Fountain is writing in full support of a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage (BUILD) Transportation Planning Grant Application submitted by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation (CSCEDC-applicant) to request planning funds for the rural designation project. CSCEDC is requesting planning funds towards the completion of planning, design, engineering, and NEPA compliance in the attainment of Class 1 railroad operational approval and shovel ready status for both military and private development.

Four years of effort between public and private interests (CSCED, the City of Fountain, El Paso County, City of Colorado Springs, and the Edw. C. Levy Company) has proven opening accessibility to the 3,000 acres tangent to Fort Carson's Gate 19/Charter Oak Road expansion and Colorado Springs Utility's Nixon Power Plant is feasible to cultivate heavy industrial/manufacturing business development with harmonious land uses.

As the City of Fountain population is comprised of a robust percentage of Fort Carson's enlisted and veteran populous, this project could portray a vital resiliency component to the life-blood of our community. The Project avails an excellent post-service employment opportunity for the numerous veterans who transition from military to civilian life annually, whereas providing a catalyst to diversify the local economy and create approximately 5,000 high paying jobs.

The City of Fountain is a representative under the Pikes Peak Regional Area Council of Government, which in 2018 championed a Joint Land Use Study among the five military installations of the region to address land uses and missions of the installations. A top priority to ensure resiliency and redundancy capacities for the State of Colorado's largest employer, Fort Carson Army Installation, was the addition of a secondary rail connection.

The foundational premise of the project to extend an existing CSU dual service rail loop to align a critical new rail spur connection for Fort Carson is vital. This enhanced connectivity to derive freight rail service will avail solutions to our regional transportation challenges, by: reducing roadway truck traffic, increasing public safety, transitioning Pinon Canon Maneuver military convoy training off road, and extending life expectancy of roadway/railway infrastructure for CDOT and the two Class 1 RR; which operate daily within our community.

The City of Fountain highly encourages approval of BUILD grant application in support of the CSCEDC's Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park Project of Southern Colorado.

Sincerely,

Gabriel P. Ortega
Mayor of Fountain, Colorado



May 11, 2020

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

Subject: Letter of Commitment for the Build Grant Application, Front Range Dual Service Rail Park Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Fountain Utilities supports the grant application submitted by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation for the Front Range Dual Service Rail Park Project. To advance the Project, Fountain Utilities will provide in-kind engineering and project management services. Over an anticipated period of 12-months, Fountain Utilities in-kind contribution is expected to be up to \$90,000.

Fountain Utilities will work collaboratively with the project team and will ensure that the in-kind services align with the grant proposal. We are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in a project that will create the only dual served rail, heavy industrial site in Southern Colorado, generating regional and local economic growth and quality post service employment opportunities for veterans and enhancing training capabilities and rapid deployment redundancy for Fort Carson. We are committed to the success of the project.

Sincerely,

Dan Blankenship
Utilities Director



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

May 11, 2020

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado Project grant submission for 2020 U.S. Department of Transportation Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program Funds

Dear Madam Secretary:

Colorado Spring Utilities supports the grant application submitted by the Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation (Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC) on behalf of the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado Project (Rail Park Project) Steering Committee, a multi-agency team with representatives from the City of Colorado Springs, City of Fountain, El Paso County, Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, Colorado Springs Utilities, and property owner Edw. C Levy Company.

The City of Colorado Springs is a home rule municipality with a population of approximately 470,000. The city owns and operates Colorado Springs Utilities, the largest four-service community-owned, not-for-profit, four-service utility in the nation. We provide Colorado Springs with safe, reliable and competitively-priced electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services. Colorado Springs Utilities works closely with the City of Colorado Springs and regional economic development partners on numerous initiatives.

To strengthen Fort Carson mission readiness, security and enhanced Post deployment capacity, Colorado Springs Utilities recognizes the criticality of a second rail connection and the value this redundancy brings to streamline military convoys to and from the Pinon Canon Maneuver Area. In support, Colorado Springs Utilities will provide the following in-kind services, in conjunction with the grant proposal.

Colorado Springs Utilities' contribution is limited to professional and technical expertise, to include staff work for utility planning, engineering, security, regulatory and compliance, environmental, real estate and track-usage negotiations and transactions.

Colorado Springs Utilities will work collaboratively to ensure our goals align with those of the grant proposal, including efforts to track and report outcomes. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve the impact the Rail Park Project will have on creating the only dual-served rail heavy industrial site in Southern Colorado, generating regional and local economic growth and high-quality post-service employment opportunities for veterans, and enhancing training capabilities and rapid-deployment redundancy for Fort Carson Post. We look forward to contributing to the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Aram Benyamin
Chief Executive Officer
719-668-8155
abenjamin@csu.org

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Colorado Springs, Colorado 80947-0954

Phone 719.448.4800
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