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July 15, 2019

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

**BUILD PLANNING GRANT REQUEST FOR THE
FRONT RANGE DUAL-SERVICE RAIL PARK OF SOUTHERN COLORADO**

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the public/private partnership for Rail-Served Economic Development Initiative, comprised of the Colorado Spring Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation, El Paso County, the City of Fountain, and the City of Colorado Springs (the “Joint Applicants”) and our private sector partner Edw. C. Levy Co., I am pleased to submit this grant request for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program to complete the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado (Front Range Rail Park) Planning Study. This grant request is in response to the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Department of Transportation’s National Infrastructure Investments under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019.

Our submission of this request reflects the results of a four-year, community-driven, regional economic development initiative that is defined by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Joint Applicants and the Edw. C. Levy Co. The MOU establishes the roles and responsibilities for each partner. The two primary objectives of the initiative are to create jobs in rural Southern Colorado and to enhance the military readiness and training capacity at Fort Carson. An Oversight Committee of members are charged to:

- (a) Establish a cooperative relationship with Levy for detailed investigation of the Levy Property, including by way of example and not limitation, defining access to the Levy Property for third-party due diligence;
- (b) Negotiate an allocation of the costs of continuing the investigation which is fair and equitable, considering the interests of each of the Parties;
- (c) Pursue and seek to obtain, at the appropriate time, grant funding;

- (d) Assess the anticipated fiscal impacts and distribution of benefits to each of the Parties and to Fort Carson;
- (e) Identify or outline responsibilities for oversight and management of any third-party contractors by designated representatives of the Parties; and
- (f) Interface with and provide regular updates to appropriate personnel at Fort Carson.¹

Partners	Amount
City of Colorado Springs	\$5,000
El Paso County Economic Development	\$48,000
City of Fountain	\$39,000
Edward C. Levy Company	\$117,500
Chamber & EDC (In-kind)	\$42,000
Colorado Springs Utilities (In-kind)	\$70,000
Total	\$321,500

Since its inception, the project partners and member governments have expended over \$300,000 to complete a Feasibility Study and establish the viability of a rail project.² In completing our Feasibility Study, we have achieved an important milestone in pursuit of our objectives: Fort Carson has initiated a formal process to align military rail assets with the preferred alternative railroad track extension to its shared property boundary with the Levy property.

We believe the Project meets USDOT’s selection criteria for this BUILD Planning Grant opportunity, as noted in our enclosed grant application. We thank you in advance for your support of our request for funding from the BUILD Program. Should you have any questions regarding this application, please contact Ms. Tammy Fields in our office at 719-884-2836.

Sincerely,

Dirk D. Draper
President & CEO

DDD/cmc

¹Memorandum of Understanding for Rail-Served Economic Development Initiative dated May 3, 2018, p. 5-6. A complete copy of the MOU is included in the Feasibility Study in Appendix D, Supplemental Information.

² Grant application p. 8, Table 3.