

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY2022 MPDG I-70 Mobility and Operation Improvements: Floyd Hill to Veterans Memorial Tunnel application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in support of the FY2022 MPDG Mega, INFRA, and Rural grant proposal to improve safety, mobility, and operational efficiency on Interstate 70 (I-70) from Floyd Hill to Veterans Memorial Tunnel. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has invested over \$500 million in this stretch of the I-70 Mountain Corridor since 2011. If approved, the requested \$240 million in MPDG grant funding will be critical to completing this important project and realizing the full benefits of past investments.

The stretch of highway coming down over the hill and banking left into the canyon is a frequent scene of accidents creating significant traffic between the Front Range and resort communities to the west. The bridge at the bottom of the hill is already at the end of its operable life and in need of replacement. The proposal addresses outstanding components of this extensive project, including: adding a westbound lane and an eastbound auxiliary lane; redeveloping the frontage road; reconstructing highway interchanges; flattening horizontal curves; implementing surface and ADA improvements to the Greenway ADA; building wildlife crossings and fencing; restoring nearby creek and riparian areas; and enhancing a local Park-n-Ride with EV infrastructure and accessibility options.

Once complete, the Floyd Hill project will improve safety, reduce congestion, improve travel time reliability, and support multimodal travel options for local and regional traffic. The project also supports freight traffic on an important segment of the National Highway Freight Network's Primary Highway Freight System. Being a part of the National Freight corridor and a key economic driver in Colorado, I-70 is an important route for trucks and is a gateway to Colorado's popular recreation destinations, connecting travelers east and west of the Continental Divide.

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 public and enhance connectivity to the rest of the freight network in the United States.

This project is a top priority for CDOT, and for Colorado communities throughout the state. It is also the largest transportation project in Colorado since work began on the expansion of I-70 through Denver. We encourage you to give the CDOT's proposal your full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your consideration, and please notify our offices of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hickenlooper". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator