



**RAPID CITY AREA
METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

*300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-394-4120*

May 22, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I strongly support the South Dakota Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application to reconstruct the I-90 LaCrosse Street Interchange.

The proposed project rebuilds a 1983 interchange constrained by adjacent development to a modern diverging diamond configuration. It serves a major retail area in Rapid City that needs an interchange that can accommodate higher traffic volumes to better connect the regional retail center with the huge rural area it serves. It will also better serve the residents of Rapid City. The interchange is on the National Highway Freight Network and the National Highway System.

This project improves infrastructure condition, addresses public health and safety, promotes regional connectivity, and facilitates economic growth and competitiveness. It furthers the selection criteria of safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, state of good repair, and partnerships with stakeholders.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in funding this grant. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SDDOT Secretary Bergquist.

Yours truly,

Mayor Larry Larson
Chair, Executive Policy Committee
Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization