



**RAPID CITY AREA
METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

April 7, 2020

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

RE: Support Letter for Box Elder and Pennington County BUILD Planning Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Rapid City Area MPO, please accept this letter demonstrating support of the FY2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) planning grant application as presented by the City of Box Elder and Pennington County, South Dakota.

This project represents multijurisdictional collaboration and includes many impacted stakeholders that the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization serves, including the City of Box Elder, the City of Rapid City, Meade County, Pennington County, the South Dakota Department of Transportation, the Rapid City Regional Airport, and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

If awarded, the funds requested under USDOT's BUILD Program, paired with a substantial match provided by the City of Box Elder and Pennington County, would complete the engineering design, utility design, right of way, and environmental planning necessary to prepare this project for full construction in the future. Proposed improvements include:

- Highway 14/16, converted from a 3-lane to a 5-lane, including much needed turning lanes.
- Radar Hill Road, connecting both Interstate 90 and Ellsworth Air Force Base to the Rapid City Regional Airport, will remain a 3-lane and include surface improvements along with the addition of curb and gutter.
- Old Calvary Road improvements include shoulder widening to enhance connectivity and safety of non-drivers.

The planning project being presented by the City of Box Elder and Pennington County will reduce the occurrence of traffic related injuries and fatalities and will considerably reduce the costly delays experienced consistently throughout these corridors.

Secretary Elaine Chao

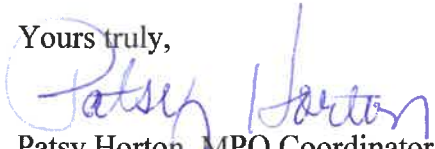
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As western South Dakota's MPO Coordinator, I am proud of our member agencies and their continued regional coordination to positively impact Interstate 90 travelers, the Ellsworth Air Force Base and the Rapid City's Regional Airport. These coordination efforts not only help our regional transportation connectivity but also ensures economic growth for western South Dakota.

Thank you for your commitment to the vast transportation needs across our nation and for supporting the Rapid City Area MPO regional transportation needs.

Yours truly,



Patsy Horton, MPO Coordinator