



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-5035

Department of Community Development

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April 7, 2020

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

RE: Support for Box Elder, South Dakota BUILD Planning Grant Request

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, please accept this letter demonstrating support of the FY2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Planning grant application being 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, Pennington County, 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 will be converted from 3-lane to 5-lane and turning lanes will be added.
- Radar Hill Road will remain 3-lane and the project will include surface improvements, and the addition of curb and gutter.



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- Improvements to Old Calvary Road includes 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.

As the City of Rapid City's Community Development Director, I am keenly aware of the regional economic impacts this project has to Ellsworth Air Force Base and the transportation connection to Rapid City's Regional Airport. I am very excited to support these regional transportation efforts.

Thank you for your commitment to the vast transportation needs across our nation.

Sincerely,

Ken Young, Director
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