



**RAPID CITY AREA  
METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

April 6, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the Chairman of the MPO's Executive Policy Committee, serving the residents of western South Dakota, I strongly support the South Dakota Department of Transportation's Better Utilization of Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application to reconstruct the I-90 La Crosse Street Interchange costing approximately \$13 million.

Rebuilding a 1983 interchange constrained by adjacent development to a modern diverging diamond configuration will increase travel times and accessibility for constituents within western South Dakota. This interchange serves one of the regional trade centers located in Rapid City connecting a 250-300 mile area encompassing western South Dakota, northeastern Wyoming, northwestern Nebraska, and the nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base. This proposed interchange reconfiguration will also decrease the traffic delays currently experienced by the traveling public seeking to access the west bound interstate on-ramp. This interchange is on the National Highway Freight Network, National Highway System, and the State Preferential Truck Network.

This BUILD project supports economic vitality by improving rural-urban connectivity and is a project that highlights the importance of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative.

Thank you for your consideration in awarding the BUILD grant funding for this regional project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SDDOT Secretary Darin Bergquist.

Yours truly,

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