



300 West 4th Street, Craig, CO 81625

June 12, 2018

Elaine Chao, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY18 BUILD grant application for SH I 3 Corridor Project (Wyoming south to Rifle, CO) Dear

Ms. Chao:

On behalf of the City of Craig, Colorado, I am writing to express support for a FY 2018 BUILD grant proposal for the Colorado State Highway 13 Corridor Project. The project will reconstruct State Highway 13, which is a National Highway System route in rural Colorado that connects the east/west Interstate 70 in Colorado to the east/west Interstate 80 in Wyoming. This safety project will improve vertical and horizontal curves, install passing and other auxiliary lanes, chain-up/chain-down stations, add full-width (8 ft.) paved shoulders, and include wildlife mitigation safety measures which will be coordinated with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The SH 13 corridor is the only viable north/south roadway in Northwest CO to ensure accessibility to major, regional, healthcare facilities and veterans hospitals. Our city that lies along this corridor values safety, systems preservation, and connections to other areas. We depend on this corridor to facilitate tourism, recreation, access to natural resources, and agriculture activities for our economic livelihood. We also rely on this corridor to provide access to the National Highway and Interstate Highway System (US 40, I-70, I-80) in order to access metropolitan areas for many services that are not available in our rural environment.

Based on historic and projected population and employment levels, both passenger and freight traffic volumes are expected to impact SH 13. Energy extraction including coal, oil, oil shale, and natural gas will continue to result in heavy vehicles impacting this roadway that serve the industry. In addition, multi-modal travel, such as bicycling and transit, would be greatly improved by this project.

We whole-heartedly support this project and request USDOT to prioritize BUILD grant funding for this worthy proposal.

Sincerely,

John Ponikvar, Mayor
City of Craig, Colorado

Cc: Mark Rogers, R3 Planning Manager (CDOT)