

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

August 16, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing in support of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and La Plata County proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding from the 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program for the US Highway 160 (US 160) improvements project. This project will address operational and safety issues on a designated freight corridor and primary regional commuting route between Durango and Bayfield, Colorado.

Improvements along this corridor are expected to result in:

- Up to 45% reduction in injury and fatal collisions between CO 172 and CR 225.
- Up to 79% reduction in severe crashes and 41% overall reduction at CR 225 intersection.
- Up to 30% reduction in run-off-road collisions East of CR 225.

The project is a priority for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, local residents, the State of Colorado, and wildlife advocates. Improvements along US 160 in southwest Colorado are critical for public safety and the integrity of this freight corridor. We encourage you to give the application submitted by the Colorado Department of Transportation and La Plata County your full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your review, and please notify our offices of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator