

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 29, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing in support of the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) grant application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity for improvements to the Interstate 80 corridor from Vista Blvd to USA Parkway in Washoe County, Nevada. The project will provide an additional lane along I-80 in both directions to reduce congestion between the Reno-Sparks metropolitan area and 102,000-acre Tahoe Reno Industrial Center (TRIC).

The project is needed to address rapidly increasing congestion along the I-80 corridor. TRIC is home to some of the largest manufacturing and distribution centers in the nation combined with some of the highest technological industries in data and computer processing. Current employment surveys have indicated that approximately 85% of the existing 25,000 TRIC employees live in the Reno-Sparks area and must commute along the I-80 corridor. Local stakeholders also anticipate the number of TRIC employees increasing from 50,000 to 75,000 over the next few years. This is a significant factor in the increased daily traffic along the four-lane corridor, which is forecasted to reach capacity before 2050. The I-80 corridor is the lifeline for the economic vitality and employment base of northern Nevada.

The I-80 corridor is also a significant national transportation asset as the primary route for interstate commerce from the Port of Oakland into the western United States. Regionally, this corridor provides access from smaller communities such as Fernley and Winnemucca to the Reno-Sparks area for a multitude of services. This includes access for higher level medical treatment including trauma patients who cannot receive the appropriate life-saving treatments in the rural communities where they live.

Without these improvements, the I-80 corridor will continue to incur unacceptably high levels of congestion and have a negative impact to commuters, freight travel, and general business operations in one of northern Nevada's most significant and growing employment areas. The anticipated improvements made possible with this funding will bolster public safety, decrease travel delays, reduce congestion, improve air quality, provide reliable access to services for rural residents, and increase freight reliability along the Interstate commerce network. This improvement is high priority for the region and addressing safety and traffic issues on this route is a top concern of many northern Nevada residents who rely on it every day.

The financial assistance from the grant will help complete this much needed project of both regional and national significance. For all of these reasons, we respectfully ask for your full and fair consideration of this NDOT grant application. We appreciate your time and please reach out to us, or our staff, with any questions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Mark Amodei
United States House of Representatives