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**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515**

September 30, 2019

The Hon. Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: BUILD Grant Application - Submitted by the City of Aurora, Colorado

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write today to request your full and fair consideration of the Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development ("BUILD") grant application submitted by the City of Aurora, Colorado, requesting \$25 million for the I-70/Picadilly Road interchange project. This award would supplement \$32 million in private development and City contributions for the \$56.5 million project.

As you know, Aurora is Colorado's third-largest city, home to more than 351,000 residents. The City has grown rapidly throughout the past five years, contributing to traffic congestion and a lack of transportation options for residents living around the Picadilly Road corridor. The Picadilly Road corridor, immediately north of I-70, serves major employment centers hosting multiple freight distribution and logistics hubs. Currently, there is limited access to I-70 in this rapidly growing area.

The I-70 Picadilly Interchange project will add new north-south connectivity by delivering a much-needed interchange where I-70 intersects with Picadilly Road, thereby producing a transportation network that can connect people and commerce to existing employment centers with an emphasis on distribution, fulfillment, and logistic functions.

Constructing the I-70/Picadilly Road interchange would substantially improve overall access and freight mobility throughout the Aurora metro area. It would be a critical step toward delivering direct access to multiple job, retail, and residential centers as well as providing efficient access for freight activity serving local, regional, and international commercial markets and the Denver International Airport (DIA). An estimated 75,000 jobs are forecast to be situated in this area by 2040.

The I-70/Picadilly interchange will serve the intermodal connectivity needs of 57.2 million square feet of existing and developing corporate distribution centers that use nearby air, rail, and road delivery vehicles to reach regional, national, and international markets. Simultaneously, it

will relieve severe morning and evening traffic bottlenecks and reduce congestion-related crashes throughout the surrounding transportation network by providing much more direct access to and from I-70.

Additionally, the project improves intermodal operations, enhances freight connections with DIA, and provides needed connectivity for emergency vehicles and travelers in the area. The interchange influence area is also within a designated Foreign Trade Zone, fostering the likelihood of international commerce having more access to manufacture locally with an interchange serving the direct needs of customers and product distribution requirements.

I support the City of Aurora's efforts to increase the access, development, and connectivity of the Picadilly Road corridor and hope that you will give the City's BUILD application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



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JASON CROW  
Member of Congress