



May 1, 2020

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

**RE: Support for the 2020 BUILD Grant Application, City of Longmont State Highway 119 & Hover:
*Safely Connecting the Plains and the Foothills in Colorado***

Dear Secretary Chao,

Thank you for your leadership and service to our nation. As a coalition of seven chambers of commerce in the Northwest Denver metro area, we offer our complete support for the funding appeal in the City of Longmont's BUILD Grant application for the State Highway 119 and Hover intersection.

We are a coalition representing over 3,600 businesses and 370,000 employees, many of whom travel along the Hwy 119 corridor on their daily commutes. As we work with them through the COVID-19 crisis, it is more important than ever to attain the federal assistance to improve a corridor that is essential for supporting our regional economic functions. State Highway 119 is critical to economic vitality because it serves as a key connection for economies of multiple counties throughout Colorado's Front Range. We see that 30% of the daily workforce commute trips into Boulder County on SH 119 originate from rural communities in Weld and Larimer Counties. Analysis indicates that this commute pattern translates into \$550 million worth of annual incomes being spent in other counties, fueling economies beyond our region.

Improving the SH 119/Hover intersection as a next step is pivotal to advancing identified multi-modal improvements for the remainder of the corridor, such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), express/managed lanes, and a commuter bikeway. These improvements aim to facilitate the interregional movement of our workforce from rural areas where many of them live, to the urban areas where the bulk of our employers are located.

The requested BUILD grant is essential for closing the funding gap we still have despite the approximately \$93 million we secured from local, regional, and state investments towards the corridor's \$225 million total project cost. The total cost of this intersection improvement project is \$20 million and the non-federal funds that have been raised thus far account for \$9 million.

We seek your partnership in improving our transportation system and to sustain our economic vitality. The need is compounded by the COVID-19 crisis that is having devastating impacts on Colorado's economy and quality of life.

We thank you in advance for supporting critical transportation infrastructure investments for Colorado during these challenging times.

John L. Tayer
President & CEO
Boulder Chamber



Sam Taylor
President & CEO
Broomfield Chamber
of Commerce



Vicki Trumbo
Executive Director
Lafayette Chamber
of Commerce



Peter Salas
Board of Directors
Latino Chamber of
Commerce of
Boulder County



Scott Cook
Chief Executive Officer
Longmont Area
Chamber of Commerce



Shelley Angell
Executive Officer
Louisville
Chamber of Commerce



T.J. Sullivan
Executive Director
Superior Chamber
of Commerce



About the Northwest Chamber Alliance

The Northwest Chamber Alliance was formed in 2016 as a coalition focused on regional issues that impact economic vitality and quality of life. It is currently comprised of the Boulder Chamber, Broomfield Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Latino Chamber, Louisville Chamber of Commerce, Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce, and Superior Chamber of Commerce, representing approximately 3,600 businesses and 370,000 employees. These businesses range from large international corporations to small businesses, startups, nonprofits and public institutions. For more information on the NWCA, please contact Andrea Meneghel, Public Affairs Director for the Boulder Chamber, (303) 938-2077 or andrea.meneghel@boulderchamber.com.