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United States Senate

COMMITTEES: FINANCE BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES INDIAN AFFAIRS

June 16, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today in support of the City of Henderson's application for the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant for the "Reimagining Boulder Highway" project. I respectfully urge your consideration of this worthwhile project which will convert more than seven miles of the most dangerous highway in Nevada to a safer, multimodal boulevard to better serve transit users, pedestrians, individuals in wheelchairs and cyclists, and assist in transforming one of the more disadvantaged areas of the second largest city in Nevada, the City of Henderson.

In its current configuration, Boulder Highway spans six lanes, is poorly illuminated, and unwelcoming to non-vehicular traffic. This has contributed to it becoming the most dangerous stretch of roadway in Southern Nevada, with nearly 10% of all statewide pedestrian deaths occurring within this corridor. This once prominent thoroughfare is also situated among neighborhoods which statistically house the lowest income earners in Henderson and residents living in close proximity to Boulder Highway are at elevated risk for higher exposure to environmental contaminants.

The Reimagining Boulder Highway project will reduce existing traffic lanes from six to four, enhance pedestrian zones and sidewalks, create dedicated lanes for bus transit, and create buffered bike lanes. The project will also install lighting along the entire roadway and add six mid-walk crossing locations with crosswalks and flashing beacons, which will dramatically improve pedestrian safety. Finally, the project will protect bicyclists and pedestrians from potentially dangerous and/or contaminated flood waters through installation of a closed conduit system.

The City of Henderson and Nevada Department of Transportation have partnered to commit over \$32 million (45%) in state and local funding towards this project and have requested an additional \$39 million (55%) through the INFRA Grant application process.

Please give this application your full and fair consideration and feel free to reach out to my office with any further questions related to this project.

MOBILE OFFICE SERVING RURAL NEVADA (775) 225–1457 Sincerely,

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Catherine Cortez Masto United States Senator