



Board of County Commissioners

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July 13, 2018

Elaine Chao

Secretary, US Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, S

Washington, DC 20590

RE: Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) FY18 BUILD grant application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Eagle County, we are writing to express support for RFTA's FY2018 BUILD grant proposal. RFTA is requesting \$22.9 million in BUILD Grant funding to construct a Regional Transit Center (RTC) in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, serving as the foundation for transit operations and mobility management throughout the three-county region, as well as coordinating with CDOT's very popular and expanding Bustang Statewide transit service.

RFTA is Colorado's second largest transit agency and the largest rural transit agency in the nation by ridership. RFTA provides over five million trips per year throughout a 70-mile corridor in Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin Counties, roughly 14 times the trips of an average-size rural transit bus agency. RFTA's safe, affordable and convenient transit services are critical for the region's mobility, congestion management, and environmental and economic sustainability.

The success of *Veloci*RFTA service, the country's first rural BRT system, coupled with growing regional demands for transit service and mobility management, require renewed investments in RFTA's core operational facilities. The RTC will meet RFTA's current and future transit maintenance capacity needs and can also support transit needs throughout the region and in the Interstate 70 corridor. The RTC project fully aligns with the BUILD Program's goal to invest in infrastructure that will make a positive impact throughout the country, particularly in rural areas.

We ask USDOT to consider BUILD grant funding for this worthy proposal.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner

Jill H. Ryan

Commissioner