



Board of County Commissioners

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February 23, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please consider this letter expressing our unwavering support for the Town of Eagle's submission for an implementation grant under the FY 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.

Eagle has diligently identified and addressed critical needs within its transportation network, culminating in the comprehensive Grand Avenue Multimodal Reconstruction Project. This initiative encompasses intersection enhancements, infrastructure improvements to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles, and road widening along Grand Avenue, a pivotal thoroughfare connecting local communities and serving as a crucial alternative to the adjacent I-70.

The imminent challenges facing the current stretch of Grand Avenue, approaching its traffic capacity and lacking essential multimodal facilities, are exacerbated by the proximity of Eagle County Airport and traffic influx from I-70. The proposed reconstruction project addresses these challenges comprehensively, focuses on safety concerns, integrates pedestrian and bicycle access, and fortifies the community for sustained growth and potential emergencies that may divert significant traffic to the project road.

The Grand Avenue Multimodal Corridor Project is vital to the Eagle Valley Transit Authority's multimodal transit system. As a crucial link to the I-70 arterial, it ensures seamless transportation to and from Eagle County Airport. This essential corridor connects the towns of Gypsum and Eagle and provides vital access to economic job centers in Vail, Avon, and Beaver Creek Ski Resorts. Given the integral role of these entities in the global economics of Eagle County and the State of Colorado, the enhancement of the Grand Avenue Multimodal Corridor is imperative to support the daily commute of the workforce and guest visitors to the world-famous Vail and Beaver Creek Ski Resorts. The envisioned corridor is poised to offer efficient multimodal transit services, benefiting pedestrians, cyclists, public transit users, and motorists alike, thereby emphasizing the creation of safe streets for all users.



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Beyond its local impact, this project holds regional significance by substantially improving multimodal transportation. The proposed enhancements will benefit the town of Eagle and extend their positive influence on Eagle County and surrounding towns and communities. The documented need for this project within the Town of Eagle, spanning several years, underscores its importance and relevance.

We firmly believe that the RAISE grant will be pivotal in advancing this crucial infrastructure project, benefiting the town of Eagle and contributing significantly to the broader state of Colorado. Your thoughtful consideration and approval of this application would be instrumental in realizing these essential improvements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we remain optimistic about the positive impact the Grand Avenue Multimodal Reconstruction Project can have on our local and regional communities.

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner