



May 11, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 MPDG Program: I-80 Capacity, Safety, and Reliability Enhancements

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter to express support from the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce for the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. The MPDG funding is necessary to facilitate completion of long-planned interstate (I-80) facility upgrades in the region through:

- the reconstruction of 15 miles (7.6 miles in each direction) of I-80
- expanding capacity by adding one travel lane in each direction (four to six-lanes)
- reconstruction of original bridge structures on/over I-80 originally constructed in 1962

The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals by improving roadway safety by installing a paved median with concrete barrier, adding rumble strips, and modifying ramps to allow freight acceleration and deceleration to improve roadway safety; reducing congestion and travel delay; supporting the movement of freight; addressing state of good repair by installing new infrastructure; and correcting deficient vertical clearance.

I-80 serves as an essential pathway for the movement of people and freight across the U.S. This portion, located just outside of the City of Lincoln (Nebraska's second most-populous city), carries nearly 40,000 daily trips, 25 percent of which are heavy trucks supporting America's supply chains. A safe, reliable I-80 with sufficient capacity conducive to the efficient flow of people and goods is critical to America's Heartland and the nation.

The State of Nebraska continues to prioritize modernizing our state's transportation network through smart and innovative investment. The completion of capacity expansion, bridge improvement, and safety enhancements along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to our great state's mission to Grow Nebraska.

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce supports NDOT's application for the funding of the I-80 Capacity, Safety, and Reliability Enhancements project and looks forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which also was supported by our chamber. Please give this 2022 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Ball", written over a blue circular stamp.

Jason M. Ball
President/CEO
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce