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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0604

September 24, 2018

The Honorable Derek Kan
Under Secretary for Policy
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Under Secretary Kan,

I write in strong support of Castle Rock, Colorado's efforts to merge its "Crystal Valley Interchange" project with the existing "I-25 Gap" project. The Crystal Valley Interchange proposal will provide critical upgrades to the I-25 corridor running through Castle Rock that will enhance highway operations, alleviate standing safety concerns, and address several traffic-related issues tied to I-25 Gap construction.

Castle Rock is a rapidly growing, vibrant suburb of the Denver Metro area. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau ranked Castle Rock as one of America's seven fastest growing cities in 2017 and expects the city's population to continue growing at approximately six percent per year. Overall usage of the I-25 corridor through Castle Rock has significantly increased since 2000 and is only expected to surge as the area welcomes more residents and daily commuters. The exponential population expansion and increased highway usage has only worsened long-standing traffic and safety concerns at the Crystal Valley interchange and the associated frontage road.

City and county officials are seeking assistance to complete important efforts to modernize the Crystal Valley interchange and construct 5.48 miles of frontage road from Plum Creek Parkway to Tomah Road. These upgrades will remove unrestricted rail crossings, relieve pressure at the Plum Creek Parkway exit, and replace the existing frontage road that currently lacks a shoulder and is dangerously close to I-25. These improvements will also greatly assist efforts to curtail traffic flow problems entering I-25 Gap construction, which recently received a \$65 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant. Furthermore, estimates show that pairing the project with current construction on the I-25 Gap will save taxpayers approximately \$6.6 million.

As such, I urge you to provide full and fair consideration of Castle Rock's efforts to combine the Crystal Valley Interchange project with current I-25 Gap efforts. If you should require further information, please contact my Legislative Director, James Hampson, at James.Hampson@mail.house.gov or 202-225-4676. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Buck
Member of Congress