



Clear Creek County

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February 21, 2023

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

RE: Support for Phase I of the Improving Mobility to and Through Idaho Springs Project- RAISE 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Chair of Clear Creek County, I write to express my strong support for the City of Idaho Springs, Colorado in pursuit of a RAISE 2023 Planning Grant to construct a Mobility Hub at exit 240 of Interstate 70. The project will include redevelopment of the transportation infrastructure in the nationally-designated Historic Downtown Commercial District, ensuring that it remains resilient, safe and accessible. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is partnering with the City and other stakeholders to advance planning and ultimately construction of this important mobility project.

The Idaho Springs Mobility Hub will host regional mass transit services such as Bustang and Pegasus offered by CDOT's I-70 Corridor Mobility Hub Network, the Clear Creek County intracounty Roundabout bus service, and private transit services. The Mobility Hub will also feature spaces for clean energy vehicles to charge.

The CDOT Statewide Transit Plan (adopted August 20, 2020) recognizes transit as an integral part of a modally-connected transportation network, providing mobility choice for everyone who lives, works, visits, and recreates in Colorado. Providing more stable and attractive mass transit opportunities for commuters and visitors along the I-70 and I-25 highway corridors is an important strategy for achieving this vision. The Mobility Hub in Idaho Springs is identified in CDOT's 10-year vision of capital improvements for the state transportation system.

Other infrastructure improvements in this project will address historic impacts related to the construction of Interstate 70 in the City. The new roundabout will ease driver deceleration as they exit the high-speed interstate and enter the low-speed residential and commercial areas of downtown Idaho Springs and will better direct visitors to the City's Historic Commercial District. Adjacent to the proposed roundabout and Mobility Hub, Miner Street through the Historic District will be entirely reconfigured into a shared (or flex) street, by relocating parking to the

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Mobility Hub parking structure and providing a better pedestrian and bicycling environment with improved gathering spaces and capacity for deliveries to local businesses.

Based on historic and projected population and employment levels, vehicular, transit, and freight traffic volumes will continue to rise in Colorado, particularly in communities along the I-70 corridor like Idaho Springs. This project will proactively address many of the physical constraints in this area, which will improve safety for all travelers and enhance connectivity throughout western Colorado. Phase II of the Project will build a pedestrian bridge over I-70, further reconnecting Idaho Springs' divided community and providing safer alternatives for pedestrians.

We appreciate your consideration and respectfully request USDOT prioritize RAISE 2023 funding for this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Randall Wheelock, Chair
Clear Creek County Board of County Commissioners