



February 22, 2024

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

RE: Support for the City of Greeley's **MERGE** RAISE Grant Application

Dear Hon. Secretary Buttigieg:

I am submitting this letter on behalf of the City of Greeley to request funding and support from the FY 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant application for the **Mobility Expansion for Regional Growth and Equity (MERGE)** project.

The City of Greeley is the county seat of Weld County with a population of median age of 31.5 years. From 2010 to 2020, the population of Weld County grew 30.1% making it the fastest-growing county in Colorado and fourth-fastest-growing metro area in the country. Most of this growth in Weld County is within the Greeley Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Of the increase in Greeley, 96% were people of color. **As the region considers what future mobility should look like, we must focus on solutions that include and appeal to our unique and existing demographics.**

The project is located on US Highway 34 Bypass, a vital east/west corridor in the North Front Range region, that runs through the heart of Greeley. The project would construct a regional mobility hub that integrates with the proposed interchanges on 35th and 47th Avenues- two of Greeley's busiest and most dangerous intersections to bring forward the delivery of innovative multi-modal transportation solutions to meet local and regional demands. The project will provide much-needed improvements to mobility; significant improvements to greenhouse gas emissions; and facilitate the efficient movement of people, goods, and services in the region.

The project's completion will have a significant impact on the City of Greeley's residents, visitors, and small businesses. These outcomes will ensure the City of Greeley is focusing on their existing demographics and creating connections to jobs and improving their quality of life.

I believe the project aligns with the RAISE grant's guidelines. The City of Greeley will use local, state, and federal funding to cover the project costs with no more than 80% of the total project funds coming from federal funding.

If you have any questions or need further information from me, please contact me at Raymond.lee@greeleygov.com.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Raymond C. Lee III
City Manager