



State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives  
Santa Fe

**GREG NIBERT**

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COMMITTEES:

Judiciary  
State Government, Elections & Indian Affairs

August 10, 2023

Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
2023-2024 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG)  
Notice of Funding Opportunity  
1120 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1149

Re: US 380 Safety Improvements

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to support the use of MPDG funds to make safety improvements to US 380. US 380 runs from San Antonio, New Mexico at Interstate 25 east to the Texas state line. The New Mexico segment is a two-lane, east-west rural highway. It connects communities across the Southwest and serves diverse freight, agricultural, and tourist users along the way. One of the primary freight users of US 380 is the segment from Roswell, New Mexico to the state line is traffic associated with the oil and gas production in the Permian Basin. Texas and New Mexico are the top two producing states of crude oil and natural gas and most of this oil and gas comes from the Permian Basin in Southeast New Mexico and West Texas. US 380 is important for the transport of oil and gas and associated products and infrastructure from this basin. The entire Nation relies on this production to fuel America's economy.

The road also serves the regional agricultural economy and is used by cattle ranchers, dairy producers, and farmers to get livestock, milk and associated dairy products, and crops (pecans, hay, peppers, corn, wheat, peanuts, and cotton) to market. In addition, retirees, families, and other adventurers with campers and various recreational vehicles drive US 380 to access, Ruidoso, Lincoln (of Billy the Kid fame), Ruidoso Downs (home of the "All American Futurity" horse race), Lincoln National Forest, Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Roswell's famous UFO and alien museum, Trinity Site, and fishing spots and hiking trails along the Pecos River - which US 380 crosses just a few miles East of Roswell. This stretch of Highway also allows Tatum residents, a town with less than 300 households, to access jobs as well as retail shops and services in bigger neighboring municipalities.

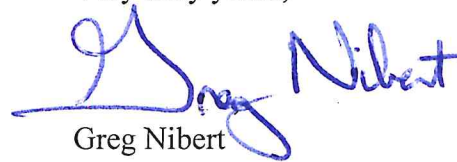
These diverse drivers share the rural 2-lane road, one lane in each direction. Because of the road constraints and existing conditions, US 380 is dangerous for motorists. Slow trucks and farm traffic back up on the 2-lane road and impatient drivers attempt unsafe lane changes because there are (except for one small stretch) no passing lanes. The State Department of

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Transportation has proposed improvements to US 380 from Roswell to the state line by adding passing lanes at key intervals (every 7-10 miles) and improving the pavement conditions. Such improvements will greatly increase safety. It will also facilitate the flow of commerce. These proposed US 380 improvements align with National Roadway Safety Strategy and DOT's commitment to take "substantial, comprehensive action to significantly reduce serious and fatal injuries on the Nation's roadway." With this funding, we can make that vision a reality and remove US 380 from the list of dangerous roads.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Nibert". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "G".

Greg Nibert

cc Representative Hochman-Vigil,  
Chair of House Transportation Committee  
Mr. Ricky Serna, Secretary Department of Transportation  
Mr. Trent Doolittle, Deputy Secretary  
Mr. Francisco Sanchez, District 2 Engineer