



August 17, 2023

Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
2023-2024 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG)  
Notice of Funding Opportunity

**Re: US 380 Safety Improvements**

Dear Grant Reviewers:

The Permian Strategic Partnership, a collaboration between local communities and 21 leading oil and gas companies operating in the Permian Basin, strongly supports the New Mexico Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) application for US 380 to receive MPDG funds. Highway US 380 from Roswell, New Mexico, to the Texas state line is a two-lane, east-west rural highway just 100 miles north of the New Mexico border.

Funding this critical project will connect communities across Southwest New Mexico and serve diverse freight, energy, agricultural, and tourist users along the way. One of the primary freight users of this corridor is traffic associated with the oil and gas production. New Mexico is a leading producer of crude oil and natural gas – and much of this oil and gas comes from the Permian Basin in southeast New Mexico and west Texas. Highway US 380 is how this oil and gas gets from this basin to other parts of the country to fuel America's economy.

Drivers currently share the rural 2-lane road, one lane in each direction, and because of the constraints and existing condition, the result has been dangerous – often lethal. Slow trucks and farm traffic back up on the two-lane road and impatient drivers attempt unsafe lane changes because there are (except for one small stretch) no passing lanes. The proposed improvements to Highway US 380 – adding passing lanes at key intervals (every 7-10 miles) while also improving the pavement conditions – would greatly increase safety outcomes and transform this corridor into a way to safely connect communities, facilitate the flow of commerce, and provide safe passage for local and visitors alike.

These proposed Highway 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 roadways." With this funding, we can make that vision a reality for a stretch of southern New Mexico.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support. Please provide the full grant award to this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracee Bentley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Tracee Bentley

President & CEO, Permian Strategic Partnership