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August 15, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), I am pleased to support the New Mexico Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) application to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program (MPDG) to make safety improvements to US Route 380 (US 380). This project will make critical safety improvements to the corridor and better facilitate the flow of commerce.

US 380 from Roswell, New Mexico, to the Texas state line is a two-lane, east-west rural highway that connects communities across the Southwest and serves diverse freight, agricultural, and tourist uses. It plays a crucial role in transporting oil and gas from New Mexico, a leading producer, to other parts of the country to fuel America's economy. The road also serves the regional agricultural economy and is used by cattle ranchers and farmers to get crops and livestock to market. In addition, retirees, families, and other adventurers drive US 380 to access the Lincoln National Forest, the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and other tourist points of interest.

These drivers share the rural two-lane road, one lane in each direction. Due to constraints and existing road condition, the results are dangerous and often fatal. Slow trucks and farm traffic back up the two-lane road, causing drivers to attempt unsafe lane changes due to the lack of passing lanes. The proposed improvements to US 380 would add passing lanes at key intervals (every 7-10 miles) while improving pavement conditions. This would increase safety outcomes in alignment with the USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy.

This grant will ensure NMDOT can make significant investments in safety and economic efficiency. Thank you for your consideration of this application. If you have any questions, please call me at (512) 305-9515 or you or your staff may contact Melanie Alvord, Director, Federal Affairs Section at Melanie.Alvord@txdot.gov or (512) 944-5135.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Williams, P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Steven P. Warren, P.E., District Director, Lubbock District
Melanie Alvord, Director, Federal Affairs Section