

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**

August 10, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write in support of the application submitted by the City of Golden (Golden) to the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) grant program. If selected, Golden will implement its Lena Gulch Project: Protecting Existing Communities from Flooding (Lena Gulch Project.) The Lena Gulch Project will increase resiliency to flooding, improve safety, provide equitable mobility options, and promote economic prosperity.

The Lena Gulch Project is of paramount importance to Golden as the implications of non-action include threats to major transportation routes, critical facilities, and homes. The Lena Gulch corridor has a history of floods that caused communities to evacuate and resulted in significant property damage. The Jefferson County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) lists the Lena Gulch improvements as a high priority, noting 100 million dollars of property are at significant risk of flooding.

With PROTECT funds, the Lena Gulch Project will remove the floodplain from US Highway 40, construct a safe, multi-modal, ADA accessible trail for pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve access for emergency vehicles to and from their facilities. This will result in the removal of the floodplain and floodway affecting 121 homes within low- and moderate-income brackets; the stabilization of the river channel to provide better downstream water quality; and the improvement of drainage and flood control to protect and increase the resiliency of major arterial transportation corridors and surrounding neighborhoods. Completion of the Lena Gulch project will allow other planned corridor improvements and economic development projects along US Highway 40, creating further resilience within the community.

We encourage you to give the application from the City of Golden your full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your review and please notify our offices of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress