

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves,

On behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Darren Weekly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the time and attention your staff devoted to meeting with us and discussing key transportation and infrastructure priorities for both our county and the state of Colorado.

Madeline's expertise on federal transportation resources and grant funding opportunities was especially valuable, and we are eager to continue working closely with your Committee to help secure the necessary federal support for our Community Project Funding requests and other transportation and infrastructure priorities that will improve safety, connectivity, and efficiency for our residents.

Douglas County has experienced significant growth, both in residential and commercial development, which has led to increasing demands on our transportation system, public utilities, and overall infrastructure. The county's population has steadily grown, bringing new families, businesses, and opportunities. While most of this growth is extremely positive, the increased number of commuters and residents has resulted in congestion on key routes, including Interstate 25 (I-25), Highway 85, and roads connecting suburban communities to major employment centers. These traffic bottlenecks not only create frustration for residents, but they also pose safety concerns and negatively impact the county's economic productivity.

While we will have additional requests, widening Highway 85 and also addressing the Happy Canyon, Lincoln Avenue, and Crystal Valley Ranch interchanges on I-25 are immediate priorities that we will be in touch with more information on in the near future. By addressing these critical infrastructure needs, we can ensure that Douglas County remains a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family. It is important to not only meet the immediate demands of our growing population but also plan proactively for the future. Thoughtful, long-term planning with your Committee, the Trump Administration, and others will allow us to maintain the high quality of life that residents of Douglas County currently enjoy and have come to expect.

Aerospace was another important topic of conversation during our meeting. Colorado stands at the forefront of the aerospace industry, with more than 400 aerospace companies headquartered in the state. Colorado's aerospace ecosystem is diverse and thriving and supports tens of thousands of high-paying, highly technical jobs. Nationally, aerospace is a cornerstone of the economy, generating hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue and supporting millions of jobs. The industry is critical in addressing national defense needs, advancing scientific discovery, and driving economic growth. Continued investment and support for the aerospace industry will ensure that America remains a global leader in space exploration and technology for generations to come.

We were pleased to discuss Congresswoman Laurent Boebert's *Private Sector Competition in Microtransit Act*. Encouraging private-sector competition and reducing government interference will reduce costs and save taxpayers money. We support this legislation and would encourage the Committee to move this bill expeditiously upon reintroduction.

We also appreciated the opportunity to discuss how we can better align regional transportation priorities with federal funding opportunities. Specifically, we support ensuring that federal transportation funds are directed to communities that prioritize public safety and lawful immigration enforcement, rather than to sanctuary cities.

Once again, thank you for your time, expertise, and unwavering commitment to addressing our nation's transportation and infrastructure challenges. We look forward to future collaboration and are hopeful that together we can make meaningful strides to improve the roads, bridges, and infrastructure in Douglas County.

Sincerely,



Abe Laydon, Chairman



Kevin Van Winkle, Commissioner



George Teal, Commissioner



Darren Weekly, Sheriff