



March 22, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As Mayor of Commerce City, Colorado, I write to support Denver International Airport's (DEN) application to obtain a 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to complete shovel-ready designs and environmental studies for the proposed transportation and mobility improvements to Peña Boulevard.

The need for reconstruction of Peña Boulevard has grown more critical in recent years due to the increase in DEN passenger trips and ongoing development in the area. Increased congestion, high crash rates, and periods of poor roadway performance have multiplied. With increases to freight movement using Peña Boulevard, improvements to the geometrics and reliability are critical to maintaining the supply-chain. Proposed safety improvements will involve bringing Peña Boulevard up to current geometric standards including improved shoulder widths, acceleration/deceleration lengths, and merge/diverge locations.

With DEN being the largest economic contributor to the State of Colorado and 3rd busiest airport in the world in 2021, millions of passengers, along with the 30,000 badged employees and aviation related businesses, depend on the airport's sole entry corridor, Peña Boulevard, for access. Within 10 years, DEN estimates that passenger traffic will reach 100 million annual passengers. Given the airport's role in our state and regional economy, it is critical that infrastructure improvements to Peña Boulevard are financed.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibits the use of airport revenue for non-aeronautical use. Based on the increased non-aeronautical use of Peña Boulevard, the FAA determined that, for the segment of Peña Blvd west of E-470, DEN may only fund maintenance, capital improvement costs, and future debt service on a pro rata basis, based on airport versus non-airport traffic. Therefore, DEN must find non-airport sources of revenue to contribute to maintaining this critical regional roadway.

USDOT funding will assist DEN in advancing solutions for Peña Boulevard that increase mobility for vehicles, transit, and multimodal transportation options; improve safety; enhance the efficiency of current and future bus operations; replaces aging infrastructure; expands accessibility for passengers, employees, and visitors; furthers the movement of goods and freight; and futureproofs infrastructure for DEN's growth and development.

For these reasons, I strongly support Denver International Airport's application for the 2022 RAISE Grant.

Respectfully,

Benjamin A. Huseman, Mayor