



## Board of County Commissioners

February 24, 2023

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

**SUBJECT: 2023 RAISE Grant Application, Colorado Highway 119 (CO 119), Boulder County, Colorado**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Thank you for your commitment to the important role infrastructure plays in advancing sustainability and social equity. Boulder County shares these values, and respectfully submits our CO 119 Diagonal Mobility Improvements: Safely Connecting Communities with Reliable, Equitable Transit & Mobility Project (CO 119 Diagonal Project) for consideration for a 2023 RAISE grant.

Located in Boulder County, between downtown Boulder and downtown Longmont, Colorado Highway 119 (known as CO 119 or the Diagonal Highway), is key to Colorado's economy and mobility. In fact, by the year 2040, the corridor is expected to see a 25% increase in vehicular traffic. Increased traffic can result in more congestion, delay, tailpipe emissions, and potentially more crashes. We are prioritizing investments in transit, active transportation, and system efficiencies to improve safety, accessibility, and sustainability.

The CO 119 Diagonal Project will:

- Cut average bus travel times in nearly half through Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) improvements, including three new BRT stations and new bus queue bypass lanes and transit-only signalization at all but one signalized intersection on the corridor;
- Develop a more equitable and connected transportation system by constructing and integrating new BRT stations, two new Park-n-Rides, pedestrian crossings, and a new commuter bikeway so community members can switch travel modes safely and reliably;
- Reconfigure the CO 52, Hover Street, and Airport Road intersections to improve safety, improve vehicular travel flow, and accommodate the new BRT stations and commuter bikeway. In fact, potentially 373 crashes will be prevented over the 20- year life cycle of the project due to these intersection investments; and,
- Improve safety and improve operational efficiency for all users by replacing and upgrading signal poles and lighting and installing new signage and striping at Jay Road, 63rd Street, and Niwot Road will eliminate another 34 crashes and 18 severe (injury and fatal) crashes over the 20-year life cycle of the project.

**Claire Levy** County Commissioner **Marta Loachamin** County Commissioner **Ashley Stolzmann** County Commissioner

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We look forward to working alongside the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Regional Transportation District (RTD), Boulder County to streamline project development and advance project delivery in an efficient, coordinated, and cost-effective manner in partnership with our CO 119 Corridor Leadership team. This project leadership team includes representatives from all organizations with active planning projects on the CO 119 corridor, including CDOT, RTD, Boulder County, City of Boulder, City of Longmont, Commuting Solutions, and Federal Highway Administration.

Reflecting our united commitment for the CO 119 Diagonal Project, the \$25M RAISE grant request will be leveraged by state, local, and regional funding to complete the \$160M multimodal program planned for the corridor. To-date, our multi-agency project team has secured over \$130M. The federal RAISE funding will fulfill the remaining funding needed to substantially complete the CO 119 corridor improvements.

Thank you for your consideration of the 2023 RAISE grant application for Boulder County's CO 119 Diagonal Project. Safety first. Equity always. Connections for all.

We look forward to a strong partnership between USDOT, Boulder County, CDOT, RTD and our local communities to improve safety, provide more reliable and equitable mobility options, and promote economic prosperity for all.

Sincerely,

Boulder County Commissioners:

Claire Levy, Chair

Marta Loachamin

Ashely Stolzmann