



April 10, 2015

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for City of Rifle TIGER FY 2015 Discretionary Grant

Secretary Anthony Foxx:

On behalf of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado, we are submitting this letter in support of the City of Rifle, Colorado and their TIGER FY 2015 Discretionary Grant application, "The Rifle Gateway Revitalization Corridor". The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) is a regional association representing cities and counties in northwest Colorado. AGNC's mission is to promote regional cooperation among local governments and to serve as a forum to identify, study and resolve issues of mutual interest.

The City of Rifle recognizes the importance that transportation plays in expanding opportunities for all citizens whether it is connecting to jobs, strengthening neighborhoods or providing opportunities for economic growth. This project provides a critical link in the City's existing transportation system that will increase efficiency, accessibility, and mobility of people to economic opportunities that will benefit our entire region.

Rifle is a key city in our five-county region, sitting at the crossroads of Highway 36 and Interstate 70. As the name of the projects alludes, the corridor between Interstate 70 and downtown Rifle truly does serve as a gateway linking various communities in our area. In addition, Rifle is situated in the heart of the region's oil and gas producing basin, and serves as a commercial and industrial hub for the local energy sector, an essential industry for northwestern Colorado. The City also serves the region's farming and ranching communities, and is a cultural center for a large part of the rural northwest. The Rifle Gateway Revitalization Corridor is a critical transportation link within the city itself, joining the mixed industrial-

commercial area south of I-70, including the Garfield County Regional Airport and the Rifle campus of the Colorado Mountain College, to the commercial, cultural and residential downtown area, as well as providing access to the largely industrial zones north of and parallel to I-70 in either direction. Clearly, this transportation link is vitally important not only to the City of Rifle itself, but to the wider northwestern region as well. The project for which the request is being made will facilitate easier transport along this corridor; specifically, completion of the North 1-70 Roundabout will help with traffic flow on this busy interchange, and the Highway 13 bridge resurfacing will improve safety and mitigate wear-and-tear on this heavily used bridge.

Due to the economic effects of the recent recession, exacerbated and prolonged by depressed commodity prices, the City of Rifle is not in a financial position to complete this important project on its own. Therefore, the AGNC fully support the City of Rifle in their application for a TIGER FY 2015 Discretionary Grant, and urge your office to approve the application.

Sincerely,



Mike Samson
Chairman, AGNC
Garfield County



Jeff Eskelson
Vice Chairman, AGNC
Rio Blanco County