

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY 2019 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant application by the Nevada Department of Transportation for I-15 and Tropicana Avenue Interchange project in Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Secretary Chao:

I presently serve as the chairman of the Las Vegas Stadium Authority Board. Recognizing the importance of efficient transportation to the stadium project, and the broader Southern Nevada economy, I am submitting this letter of support for the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application under the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program submitted by the Nevada Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of the Interstate 15 (I-15) and Tropicana Avenue Interchange in Las Vegas, Nevada. The project will reconstruct the existing interchange to improve capacity and operations and add High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) ramps to and from Harmon Avenue.

Today, with over 320,000 and 86,000 vehicles a day on I-15 and Tropicana Avenue respectively, this interchange is one of the most important (yet congested) interchanges in the Nevada and continues to serve as the southern gateway to the Las Vegas resort corridor (The Strip), the most important economic engine in the State.

This area also serves as critical access to the T-Mobile Arena and the Las Vegas Raiders Stadium, major contributors to the future success of the Las Vegas tourist economy. I-15 along the Resort Corridor is the most heavily travelled section of highway in the entire state and is a key element of the interstate highway system. Additionally, I-15 serves as a primary transcontinental goods movement route with its systemic connections to primary east-west trade corridors (i.e., I-10, I-40, I-70 and I-80), and provides a nationally critical link from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the rest of the United States.

Without these improvements, both I-15 and Tropicana Avenue will continue to incur severe congestion resulting in negative impacts to motorists and critical freight traffic, degrading the reliability to move goods through the region. The much-needed interchange reconstruction project will reduce congestion, decrease travel delays, eliminate conflicts between through and local traffic, and improve air quality. This vital project will aim to improve access to the Strip and major entertainment venues as well as provide congestion relief on I-15. It will improve safety, capacity and operations of the interchange while also enhancing the performance of the ramps and intersections providing travel time benefits to local commuters, visitors, as well as freight traffic through Las Vegas, helping to strengthen the economy.

Please accept this letter of support for the INFRA grant submitted by NDOT. The financial assistance from the INFRA grant will help complete this much needed nationally significant project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Steven D. Hill, Chairman
Las Vegas Stadium Authority