

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 29, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing in support of the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) grant application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity for the Elko Nevada Rail Corridor Enhancement Project.

The Project delivers components critical to enhancing the safety, fluidity, capacity, mobility, and efficiency of the rail and multimodal transportation network in the Elko, Nevada area; as well as promoting resiliency and economic development. The rail corridor through Elko is part of Union Pacific Railroad's (UPRR) Overland Route and hosts UPRR freight trains and a daily pair of Amtrak California Zephyr long-distance passenger trains between Chicago and the San Francisco Bay Area (with a station stop in Elko).

The Project supports future planned Amtrak passenger station modifications. Amtrak is looking to modify two separate platforms into one ADA-compliant platform on one mainline track that will enhance safety and create an equitable environment for accessibility in a disadvantaged and underserved community.

The Project includes construction of rail crossovers to access the future, single passenger platform and lengthening tracks in UPRR's Elko rail yard located immediately to the East of the future passenger platform. These improvements will improve the fluidity and resiliency for passenger and freight rail operations in the Elko area.

The rail corridor through Elko is an important catalyst in the economic development and prosperity of the western U.S. and is an important part of the global supply chain. It supports the mining, ranching, agriculture, and other industries in the state as well as rural Elko County. The passenger rail service over this corridor enhances mobility and is a long-standing affordable transportation option for members of the community and surrounding area.

For these reasons, we ask for your full and fair consideration of this NDOT grant application. We appreciate your consideration of the application, please reach out to us, or our staff, with any questions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Mark Amodei
United States House of Representatives