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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization Committee Members

FROM: Kip Harrington, Division Manager

DATE: February 11, 2025

RE: **25TP004 – Letter of Support for the City of Rapid City Chapel Lane Bridge PROTECT Grant Program Application**

The City of Rapid City has submitted an application to the United States Department of Transportation PROTECT Grant program to replace the Chapel Lane bridge in southwest Rapid City. The bridge on Chapel Lane provides the sole access point for Chapel Valley, a neighborhood of 500-plus households. This bridge is 50 years old and has met the end of its useful life. Improving and ensuring the resiliency of the bridge is critical.

Should this structure fail, or even be closed temporarily, the economic impact and potential life safety impacts would be significant. As the only access point, this bridge provides the only emergency route in and out of Chapel Valley. During a catastrophic emergency, such as a wildfire or flood, this bridge must be resilient to withstand the event and allow safe passage for those leaving and entering the neighborhood.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the Letter of Support for the City of Rapid City Chapel Lane Bridge PROTECT Grant Program Application.**