



**RAPID CITY AREA  
METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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*300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-394-4120*

February 3, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization strongly supports the South Dakota Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) grant application to reconstruct the I-90 La Crosse Street Interchange costing approximately \$13 million.

The proposed project rebuilds a 1983 interchange constrained by adjacent development to a modern diverging diamond configuration. The interchange serves a major retail area in Rapid City connected to a huge rural trade area including western South Dakota, northeastern Wyoming, northwestern Nebraska, and the nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base. It will also better serve the residents of Rapid City. The interchange is on the National Highway Freight Network, National Highway System, and the State Preferential Truck Network.

This INFRA project supports economic vitality by improving rural-urban connectivity and is a project that highlights the importance of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in funding this grant. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SDDOT Secretary Bergquist.

Yours truly,

Mayor Larry Larson  
Chair, Executive Policy Committee  
Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization