



September 28, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I commend the Mayor and Council for presenting to the New Mexico State Transportation Commission with an update on the priorities of the Village of Los Lunas. In particular, one of the Village's top priorities is a new I-25 Interchange (with a new east-west arterial and river crossing) that would actually serve most of Valencia County.

I am aware that NM 6, through the Village of Los Lunas, is currently the only convenient route of choice for many of the County commuters which results in extreme traffic congestion for Village residents and businesses. I understand the concerns with EMS response times being a factor in "life or death" situations. The Village has been very proactive in addressing this problem and has spent several million dollars over the last decade as the local lead on approximately eight different projects in an attempt to upgrade NMDOT intersection facilities on NM 6 in an effort to alleviate congestion concerns. It is very interesting that approximately 40% of the daily traffic is from the part of the County that is east and south of Los Lunas. More importantly, it is commuters going to and from employment destinations with no planned stops in the Village. We discussed other possible remedies to no avail as NM 6 in Los Lunas is the only river crossing along almost 17 miles of the Rio Grande. It became clear that a new I-25 Interchange and river crossing to NM 47 would alleviate traffic on NM 6 through the Village.

In addition to support from our local police and fire departments, this critical project has regional support from surrounding communities including Valencia County, Village of Bosque Farms, City of Belen, City of Rio Communities and the Town of Peralta. The Village of Los Lunas has also presented this regional priority to the New Mexico Senate Transportation Subcommittee. The project was approved by the Mid-Region Council of Governments Board for inclusion on the State's Long Term Plan and the Village has been "work shopping" with the MRCOG and NMDOT on possible funding opportunities.

I realize this Interchange project is a regional issue, and as such, is a monumental task for the Village to undertake. Therefore, I pledge my support

**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**Tom Church**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Commissioners**

**Ronald Schmeits**  
Chairman  
District 4

**Dr. Kenneth White**  
Secretary  
District 1

**David Sepich**  
Commissioner  
District 2

**Keith Mortensen**  
Commissioner  
District 3

**Butch Mathews**  
Commissioner  
District 5

**Jackson Gibson**  
Commissioner  
District 6

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and will work with the other members of New Mexico's delegation to assist the Village. Together, we will find a way to fund, design, and construct this vital transportation project for central New Mexico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TC' followed by a flourish.

Tom Church  
Cabinet Secretary  
New Mexico Department of Transportation

cc: Mayor Charles Griego  
Mayor Pro Tem Gerard Saiz  
Anthony Lujan, Deputy Secretary