



Letters Supporting the Proposed Project

Political Representatives

Congress of United States

New Mexico Legislature

State, Regional & Local Planning Partners

New Mexico Department of Transportation

Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Valencia County

City of Rio Communities

Local Agency Collaboration

Los Lunas Police Department

Los Lunas Fire Department

Los Lunas Schools

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-8962

May 16th, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation writes in support of the grant application submitted by the Village of Los Lunas for a FY 2019 National Infrastructure Investments grant as funded by the Department of Transportation. This grant, DTOS59-19-RA-BUILD, will allow the Village of Los Lunas (Los Lunas) to construct a new highway interchange along Interstate 25 and to extend New Mexico State Road 314 eastward in order to reduce regional roadway congestion.

Los Lunas is the county seat of Valencia County, New Mexico and is bisected by a section of I-25 approximately 23 miles south of the city of Albuquerque. Los Lunas also lies at the terminus of New Mexico State Road 6, which is currently the sole east-west corridor connecting communities east of the Rio Grande River to I-25 within 17 miles of Los Lunas. As a result, State Road 6 has become increasingly congested in recent years due to the addition of intensifying Albuquerque-bound commuter traffic to existing commercial traffic flows in Los Lunas' Main Street District.

The current infrastructure project represents the first phase of a multi-stage effort to alleviate the aforementioned congestion by constructing an alternate east-west corridor from I-25 across the Rio Grande. If approved, Los Lunas will utilize grant funds to construct a new interchange along Interstate 25 that will facilitate cross river transit via approximately 1.8 miles of newly built two-lane highway, as well as a new bridge crossing over the Rio Grande.

To date, Los Lunas reports that it has invested several million dollars towards this project and has obtained additional monetary support from state and local partners. Most notably, the State of New Mexico has appropriated \$10 million to support this project and reportedly identified an additional \$45 million in funding sources that will be used to ensure its completion. The New Mexico Congressional Delegation believes this project to be of significant regional importance to the economy of central New Mexico and we anticipate its contribution to the safety and prosperity of our constituents when completed.

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation proudly supports the application submitted by the Village of Los Lunas for a FY 2019 National Infrastructure Investments grant as funded by the Department of Transportation and we request that you give their application thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Representative



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Deb Haaland
United States Representative



Xochitl Torres Small
United States Representative



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

July 2, 2019

Mr. Charles Griego
Office of the Mayor
Village of Los Lunas
660 Main Street NW
Los Lunas, NM 87031

Dear Mayor Griego,

We continue to support the Village of Los Lunas in their regional effort to build a new I-25 Interchange and river crossing to NM 47, which would alleviate traffic on NM 6 and would serve most of Valencia County. The Village has been very proactive in requesting funding 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. The Village has completed these projects in an attempt to alleviate the increasingly dangerous congestion on NM 6; however, now respectfully requests assistance at the Federal level to complete this regional transportation facility. In addition to leveraging State and local funds, the Village has continued to apply for Federal funding and is currently applying for a U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD grant.

The Village of Los Lunas, in conjunction with the Mid-Region Council of Governments has completed a corridor study and has garnered regional support from many surrounding communities including Valencia County, the Pueblo of Isleta, Village of Bosque Farms, City of Belen, the Town of Peralta, and the City of Rio Communities. The area schools, local police and fire departments have also expressed support for this necessary project. The Village of Los Lunas has presented this regional priority to Congressional delegates, the New Mexico State Transportation Commission as well as the New Mexico House and Senate Transportation Subcommittees. In fact, the Village has been "work shopping" with the Mid-Region Council of Governments and the NM DOT on possible funding opportunities.

We realize this Interchange project is a regional issue, and as such, is a monumental task for the Village to undertake. Therefore, we pledge our legislative support and will work with 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.

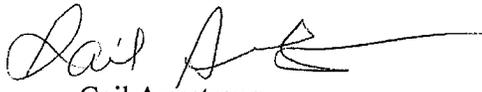
Sincerely,



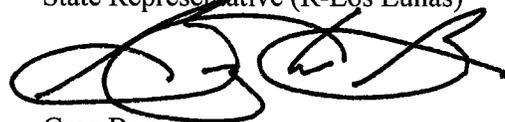
Alonzo Baldonado
State Representative (R- Los Lunas)



Kelly Fajardo
State Representative (R-Los Lunas)



Gail Armstrong
State Representative (R-Magdalena)



Greg Baca
State Senator (R-Belen)



Clemente Sanchez
State Senator (D- Grants)



May 7, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to write to you in support of the Village of Los Lunas, NM for the new Interstate 25 Interchange and East-West Corridor. In 2019, the NM Legislator appropriated \$10 million towards this project. Utilizing discretionary funds, the NMDOT has identified up to an additional \$45 million to help move this project forward. We feel that an investment of \$55 million clearly exhibits our commitment to the project. We would respectfully request your assistance and commitment in funding this State priority.

NMDOT commends the Mayor and Council for their pursuit of a new 1-25 Interchange (with a new east-west arterial and Rio Grande crossing) that will serve the people of Valencia County. For background, the Village is presently limited to only one crossing, NM Highway 6, connecting residents on the east side of the Rio Grande to I-25, and is suffering from severe congestion. This congestion impedes commuters, restricts access to local business and schools, and is an obstacle for emergency response. The Village has been proactive in addressing this problem and has spent several million dollars over the last decade on projects along NM 6 and local roads to alleviate congestion concerns. A new 1-25 Interchange and river crossing to NM 47 will alleviate traffic on NM 6 through the Village. Studies conducted by the Village show that the new interchange and corridor would alleviate congestion along NM 6 by approximately 43%.

In addition to support from Legislators as well as 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 presented this regional priority to Congressional Delegates and 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 as a "Project of Special Interest".

In summary, this project will reduce travel time, increase pedestrian safety, and promote economic activity in the Village of Los Lunas and its neighboring communities, which strongly align with NMDOT goals. We realize this Interchange project is a regional issue, and as such, is a monumental task for the Village to undertake. We pledge our support and will work with the other members of New Mexico's delegation to assist the Village. Together, we will find a way to design, fund, and construct this vital transportation project for New Mexico.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRS", is written over a light blue background.

Michael R. Sandoval
NMDOT Cabinet Secretary

**Michelle Lujan
Grisham**
Governor

Michael R. Sandoval
Cabinet Secretary

Commissioners

Jennifer Sandoval
Commissioner, Vice-Chairman
District 1

Bruce Ellis
Commissioner
District 2

Keith Mortensen
Commissioner
District 3

Walter G. Adams
Commissioner, Chairman
District 4

Vacant
Commissioner
District 5

Charles Lundstrom
Commissioner, Secretary
District 6



Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Division of the
Mid-Region Council of Governments
809 Copper Avenue NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(505) 247-1750-tel. (505) 247-1753-fax
www.mrcog-nm.gov

July 10, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter supporting the grant application to construct the new Los Lunas 1-25 Interchange and East-West Corridor in Valencia County in the southern portion of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area. This project is listed in, and is consistent with, *Futures 2040 the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)*, the long-range plan for the metropolitan area adopted in April 2015. (Link: <https://www.mrcog-nm.gov/transportation/metro-planning/longrange-mtp>)

The MTP lists this project as a "Project of Special Interest" (ref. Appendix B) and states the importance of this project to improve cross-river connectivity in Valencia County where existing bridges are 10½ miles apart. This project would create a key river crossing connection with a direct connection to 1-25. The project's alignment has been studied and identified, and acquisition of the required rights-of-way is funded and programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and is well underway.

In summary, among the benefits of this proposed project, it will reduce travel time, provide improved east-west river crossing connectivity in a growing area, improve safety, and improve first-responder response time. This project will benefit both the urbanized and rural areas of the southern portion of the metropolitan area.

Your consideration of providing funds for this project is greatly appreciated. Any additional funding for this project will be amended into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Sincerely,

David R. Pennella
M.P.O. Administrator



County Manager's Office
444 Luna Ave P.O.Box 1119
Los Lunas, NM 87031
Phone: (505) 866-2034 Fax: (505) 866-3355
danny.monette@co.valencia.nm.us

July 6, 2018

Mr. Charles Griego, Mayor
Village of Los Lunas
660 Main Street NW
Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031

RE Los Lunas I-25 Interchange and East-West Corridor Project

Dear Mayor Griego,

We understand that the Village of Los Lunas is pursuing federal funding for a new I-25 interchange and east-west corridor extension to NM 314, across the Rio Grande, and connection to NM 47.

We understand that the design of this project has not yet been developed, but we anticipate coordinating and working with the Village of Los Lunas in an effort to fund, design, and construct the referenced project.

To show our eagerness in this project, Valencia County has earmarked \$2,000,000 in the upcoming Bond Election to assist the Village of Los Lunas with funding needed to bring this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Danny Monette
County Manager

*Jhonathan Aragon, Chair, District V • Charles Eaton, Vice-Chair, District IV •
Helen Cole, District I • David Carlberg, District II • David Hyder, District III
Daniel Monette, County Manager*



Small Community. Big Possibilities.

Village of Los Lunas

465 MAIN STREET N.W.
P.O. BOX 1209
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031



PHONE: (505) 866-2116

www.loslunasnm.gov

FAX: (505) 352-7750

February 19, 2015
Chief John J. Gabaldon
Los Lunas Fire Department
P.O. Box 1209
Los Lunas, NM 87031

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Village of Los Lunas Fire Department I would like to express our support for the Los Lunas Corridor Project.

The Village of Los Lunas is in need of this critical infrastructure to relieve traffic congestion along Main Street (NM6). This additional exit off I-25 would improve current and future traffic flow in the following ways:

- Less traffic congestion will aid in shortening response times of emergency personnel to the west side of the Village.
- Provide an efficient route for our mutual aid departments to the west side.
- Reduce risk of motor vehicle accidents

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Los Lunas interchange/corridor project. Any project that will relieve traffic congestion on HWY 6/ Main St. will enhance our response capability and provide our department a safer means of travel while providing Fire and EMS services.

Sincerely,

John Gabaldon, Fire Chief

CHARLES GRIEGO
MAYOR

GREGORY D. MARTIN
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

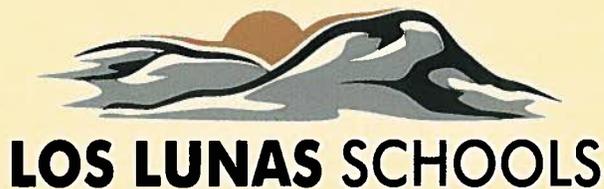
GINO ROMERO
COUNCILMAN

PAULETTE SANCHEZ-MONTOYA
COUNCILWOMAN

GERARD SAIZ
COUNCILMAN

AMANDA PEREA
COUNCILWOMAN

**Dana Sanders
Superintendent**



**Georgia Otero-Kirkham, President
Sonya C'Moya, Vice President
Bryan C. Smith, Secretary
Frank A. Otero, Member
Robert Archuletta, Member**

April 20, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

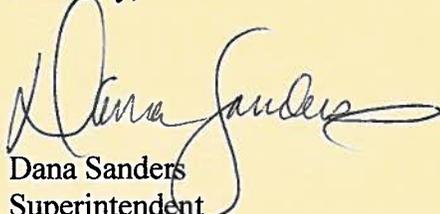
This letter is written on behalf of the Los Lunas Schools in support of the Los Lunas East West Corridor Project. This project would help to alleviate traffic on main street in Los Lunas. Schools in the district are impacted by traffic congestion on a daily basis. The need for a solution to the traffic pattern and congestion in Los Lunas has been a very long time in coming.

A corridor for east and west traffic would allow our students to be safely and efficiently transported to and from school. The corridor would also help to get students that live on the east side and must commute to the west side for school, a more reasonable time on their bus ride to and from school. There are many occasions that school busses must transport students to other school districts in the state or to field trip destinations. Often this requires busses to get to Interstate-25. A corridor would make this a safer more efficient trip, increasing instructional time for students.

In addition, the Los Lunas Schools serve several medically fragile students that must receive immediate medical attention. It is very concerning that during peak hours, it is extremely difficult for emergency vehicles to get through traffic on the only way in and the only way out of Los Lunas. If for some reason, a student is injured in sports or is in need of medical attention and they are attending one of our east side schools, it is at least 20 additional minutes to get an emergency vehicle to them.

It is without question that the Los Lunas Schools support the Los Lunas East West Corridor Project. We believe it is a solution to a problem that will only continue to grow. If the problem is not addressed now, there will be additional funding issues and additional monies that will be required to ensure a safe and efficient means of alleviating traffic.

Sincerely,



Dana Sanders
Superintendent
Los Lunas Schools





CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES

303 Rio Communities Blvd.
PO Box 565
Rio Communities, NM 87002
505-861-6803
www.riocommunities.net



March 24, 2015
City of Rio Communities
303 Rio Communities Blvd.
Rio Communities, NM 87002

To whom it may concern,

The Governing Body of the City of Rio Communities would like to take this opportunity to express the enthusiastic support of our citizens for the Los Lunas East-West Corridor Project. Alleviating congestion and shortening travel times benefits all surrounding communities.

The addition of an interchange at I-25 and Morris Road enhances the quality of life for all residents of Rio Communities by providing faster access to health care, decreased commute times and less of their transportation budget spent on fuel resulting in a smaller carbon footprint. The connection between the I-25 Morris Road Interchange, Hwy 314, Hwy 47 and Manzano Expressway opens the door to a myriad of economic development possibilities and offers better access to east side schools.

This would greatly enhance Rio Communities' ability to provide decreased response times when responding to mutual aid requests for the RGEFD. Rio Communities is located adjacent to one of the scarce Rio Grande crossings and with four lane capacity and access to Hwy 47 and Manzano Expressway the opportunities for relief routes is greatly increased.

We fully support this needed and beneficial project.

City of Rio Communities Governing Body

Mark Gwinn, Mayor

Robert Chavez, Councilor

Frank Stasi, Councilor

Mary Lee Serna, Mayor Pro Tem

Peggy Gutjahr, Councilor

Attest:

LaShae Latasa, City Clerk



Los Lunas POLICE

Telephone: 505-839-3855
Fax: 505-352-7741

Naithan G. Gurule
Chief of Police
www.Loslunasnm.gov/police

660 Main St., P.O. Box 1209
Los Lunas NM 87031

May 7th 2019
Chief Naithan Gurule
Los Lunas Police Department
660 Main St. Los Lunas, NM 87031

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Village of Los Lunas Police Department I would like to express our support for the Los Lunas Corridor Project.

The Village of Los Lunas is in dire need of this critical infrastructure to relieve traffic congestion experienced daily along Main Street (NM6). This is especially important during peak traffic hours. Main Street is a key access route to school, work, and other regular activities-both in Valencia County and Albuquerque – for residents and visitors in Los Lunas and the surrounding area. A second exit will reduce traffic crashes which can result in tragedies such as death, as well as property damage and injuries that generate costly medical treatment, insurance premiums, and repair costs. The additional relief will also allow for faster response times by public safety officials, increasing traffic safety within the Village of Los Lunas and improving the quality of life for the community.

Sincerely,

Naithan Gurule, Police Chief