

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 1, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to express our support for the Tahoe Transportation District's (TTD) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This section of Nevada Highway is a narrow two-lane road with steep and challenging topography that parallels the longest stretch of undeveloped shoreline in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The natural beauty and recreation options along this corridor make the area one of the most visited in the Basin. Annually, over 2.6 million vehicles travel on this rural highway, along with over one million people recreating in this area of Lake Tahoe.

The SR 28 corridor, from Sand Harbor to Highway 50, is experiencing critical highway safety issues and congestion. Traffic during peak season can be delayed for hours, impeding emergency response vehicles. The lack of off-highway parking and connecting paths forces over 2,000 people, on an average peak summer day, to walk in the travel lanes, compounding congestion and safety concerns. Thirteen federal, state, and local project partners are working together on a multi-phased project to clear congestion through road improvements and provide safe multi-modal access, while reducing greenhouse gases. Erosion will also be controlled by relocating shoulder parking to designated lots, protecting the water quality of the national treasure, Lake Tahoe. The recently constructed Tahoe East Shore Trail from Incline Village to Sand Harbor successfully provides a safe visitor experience for bicyclists and pedestrians while enabling local businesses to expand to meet the demand. Further, the project demonstrates successful collaboration among the partner agencies delivering this project.

The RAISE grant request includes the construction of 1.75 miles of shared-use trail. Recreation areas will be served by an expanded East Shore Express transit service, which transports nearly 30,000 visitors over a three-month summer period. NV Energy has an opportunity to work with the partnering agencies to create a more fire-resilient corridor by undergrounding and replacing aging powerlines along this primary evacuation route. This joint effort improves construction efficiencies, limits road closures and delays for future utility repairs, and supports wildfire mitigation efforts.

For these reasons, we ask that you give their application your full and fair consideration. Do not hesitate to reach out to us, or any of our staff, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Cortez Masto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacky Rosen". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jacky Rosen
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark V. Amodei". The signature is cursive and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark Amodei
United States House of Representatives