

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

March 18, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

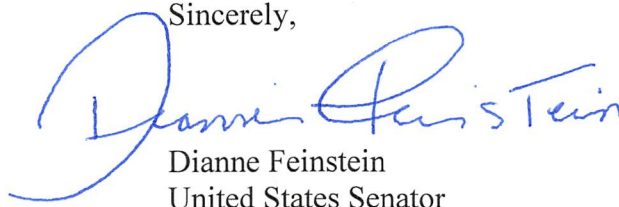
I write in support of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG) application for funding from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, administered by the Department of Transportation.

SBCAG is requesting a grant award of \$25 million to complete the final phase of the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project. The U.S. 101 serves as the only major highway that links the northern and southern regions of California to the central coast. It is also the only designated Critical Urban Freight Corridor in the area. However, the U.S. 101's narrow coastal plain and adjacent mountains limit its capacity to support commuters and interregional goods movement. This project will complete the widening of the U.S. 101 by adding a peak-hour carpool lane in each direction.

The completed U.S. 101 arterial will reduce the highway's traffic congestion and serve as an alternative to the Interstate 5 freeway during weather-related closures. The project will also help advance the reliability and efficiency of travel through carpooling and public transit. These infrastructure improvements will support environmental sustainability and increase underserved communities' access to jobs, schools and critical social and health services. Although local and state investment in the project is significant and accounts for almost 80% of the total project cost, partnership with the federal government is considered to be vital to completing the final phase of the more than 15-year effort.

I urge you to give the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' application every consideration. Please keep my office informed of the status of this request, and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Los Angeles office at (310) 914-7300.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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