

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 19, 2016

The Honorable Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

We write to request that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) acknowledge Denver International Airport's (DEN) authority to use airport revenue to maintain and improve Peña Boulevard in Denver, Colorado. Peña Boulevard is the sole access road to DEN. As such, it is critical that the Airport have the ability to invest in the roadway in order for Coloradans to continue to have access to the nation's fifth busiest airport.

From DEN's opening in 1995 until 2010, the FAA allowed the Airport to use airport revenue to pay for constructing and maintaining Peña Boulevard. In 2010, the FAA determined that it was no longer appropriate for the Airport to continue paying the full cost of maintenance and expansion of the road due to increasing development on the land surrounding the roadway. While we respect the FAA's goal of properly applying its Revenue Use Policy, we do not believe it is being appropriately applied in this instance.

Peña Boulevard was constructed as an airport access road through an undeveloped area of northeast Denver to connect Coloradans and our visitors to the Airport and its surrounding facilities. The road itself only exists because of the Airport. It is located entirely on Airport property and was fully funded and operated by DEN. Twenty years later, Peña Boulevard serves this same purpose – a way for Colorado residents and visitors to access the airport.

At the same time, both Denver and DEN are experiencing significant growth, placing greater burdens on Peña Boulevard. Over the next five years, Denver's economy is expected to grow at more than 3% annually, and DEN will serve an additional 10 million passengers annually, above the roughly 54 million passengers served in 2015. Today, two-thirds of DEN passengers begin or end their journey in Denver. This far exceeds estimates generated when the Airport opened in 1995, and places an extraordinary burden on airport infrastructure, including Peña Boulevard. DEN works diligently to maintain Peña Boulevard and will need to begin planning for the road's expansion soon to accommodate future growth.

FAA staff points to the increase in economic development and jobs in neighboring areas as a basis for denying DEN the authority to pay for any such expansion with airport revenue. The Airport should not be penalized because of this increase in economic development and job creation. Even with this economic growth, the vast majority of traffic along the roadway on the whole remains directly related to the Airport and will continue for the foreseeable future.

Coloradans and visitors to the state must have consistent and reliable access to this vital transportation hub. If significant investment is not made in Peña Boulevard in the near future, we are concerned that increased traffic congestion could hamper the Airport's ability to continue to serve the region and the national air transportation system.

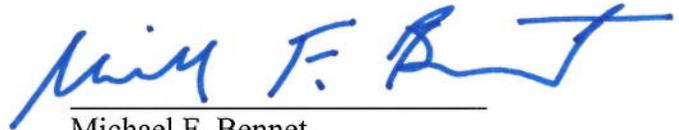
We believe it is well within the FAA's authority to allow Denver International Airport to use airport revenue to maintain and expand Peña Boulevard. We urge you to reconsider this matter in light of the particular history and facts surrounding Peña Boulevard and DEN, and acknowledge the Airport's authority to fully fund maintenance and expansion of its access road.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator