

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Grant Application Submitted by the City of La Junta
TIGER VII grant

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the City of La Junta, Colorado, we write to ask for your full and fair consideration for its application for a U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER VII grant. We strongly support their request for funding to improve the tracks along Amtrak's Southwest Chief rail line in Southeastern Colorado.

Amtrak's Southwest Chief is a key transcontinental passenger train serving major cities and rural communities along its route from Chicago to Los Angeles. The Southwest Chief provides an important means of transportation for many of Colorado's rural communities. The line also contributes to the region's tourism efforts and growing economy.

The tracks running through Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas are in need of significant repair after years of deterioration. The Tiger VII grant funding would improve approximately 37 track miles along the route of the Southwest Chief.

The repairs and improvements to this rail line will permit the continuation of the Southwest Chief in Southeastern Colorado. Without the repairs, the train could ultimately be rerouted or abandoned which would be economically detrimental to the entire region.

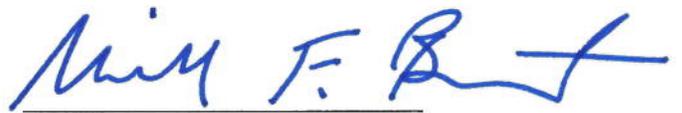
The City of La Junta is requesting \$24 million to fund these repairs. The City of La Junta will work closely with Amtrak, the Colorado Department of Transportation and Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to complete the project.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator