

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20003-3660

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in support of Bonneville County's application for funding through the Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program. If awarded, funding will be used to evaluate replacement structures alternatives for the 145th N. Bridge over the Snake River in North Bonneville County, ID, focusing on a replacement alternative that will be structurally resilient, improve connectivity to I-15, and address safety needs for all users.

This bridge sits on the county line between Bonneville and Jefferson Counties, servicing a census tract categorized as a historically disadvantaged community. Both counties have realized the need to replace this structure for years but have not had the funding to address this need. Even with recent statewide funding opportunities to replace local agency poor condition bridges, the bridge was still not competitive because has exceeded the funding requirements for the program. Seeking federal funding opportunities is the only avenue to address the scale of this structure based on the means of the county budgets.

It is worth noting that the existing bridge was built in 1967 and has reached the end of its 50-year serviceable lifespan. The structure is considered hazardous to the surrounding community with narrow lanes, limited offsets to barrier, lack of shoulder, and no space for non-motorized users. The current structure is at risk of falling into a "poor" status in the Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory rating system. The 145th N. Bridge provides access over the Snake River to vital transport routes, including I-15. The 145th N corridor is located in a remote setting that relies heavily on the agricultural business and generates significant amounts of agricultural freight. The key generator of that freight is Simplot Grower Solutions (SGS), located a half-mile west of the bridge. SGS is a 90-year old family run business that supports farmers across the state. The location on 145th N provides farmers with access to seeds,

fertilizers, herbicides, equipment, and other resources that farmers need in order to be successful.

We urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give full and fair consideration to Bonneville County's request for funding

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Crapo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being more prominent than the last name "Crapo".

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Risch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being more prominent than the last name "Risch".

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being more prominent than the last name "Simpson".

MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress