



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

December 13, 2024

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

Re: Strong Support for the I-40 TradePort Corridor Business Plan

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to you today, on behalf of the New Mexico Environment Department, to express my support for the proposed I-40 TradePort Corridor's continued development as a Second Round U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Regional Infrastructure Accelerator.

This innovative proposal, submitted by a dynamic partnership of public and private entities, promises to further revolutionize an 805-mile-long corridor (along the historic Route 66) across three states. Collaboration between Bernalillo County, Sandoval County, the Cities of Winslow and Kingman, the Village of Los Lunas, Global Logistics Development Partners, and a robust network of supporting partners exemplify unprecedented unity and strategic planning. This coalition spans critical sectors such as seaports, rail, utilities, clean energy, education, and numerous governmental bodies, all dedicated to a singular transformative goal: to form the cleanest and most efficient logistics system in the world.

As the I-40 TradePort Corridor emerges as a multi-hub system spanning from the San Pedro seaports to strategic locations across the Southwest and beyond, New Mexico stands ready to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of sustainable logistics.

New Mexico remains steadfast in its commitment to these transformative logistics hubs. In fact, the state's recent success in adopting clean transportation policies—including a Clean Transportation Fuel Standard, new Clean Car and Truck rules, Heavy-Duty Omnibus rules, and a mandatory transition to zero-emission vehicles for the state's fleet—position New Mexico as a global leader in sustainable transportation. The fuel standards in New Mexico and California alone will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from trucks currently on the road that would initially move freight between these hubs.

Indeed, New Mexico is the only non-Western Coastal state that has implemented such a comprehensive suite of clean transportation regulations. And, New Mexico's strategic location along Interstate-40, intersecting with numerous federal and state highways, makes it the ideal nexus for jumpstarting a long-term, coast-to-coast, and sustainable logistics system to be built eastward out of California, as envisioned by the federal Joint Office of Energy and Transportation. By continuing to invest in the hubs at Kingman, Winslow, and Albuquerque, USDOT can not only strengthen the nation's supply chain but also revitalize these communities and create a generational positive impact.

In conclusion, I urge all stakeholders and decision-makers to endorse and facilitate the rapid advancement of the I-40 TradePort Corridor project. It is not just an investment in infrastructure but a commitment to our nation's economic, environmental, and social future.

Thank you for considering my sincere support for this pivotal project. I am hopeful that together we will witness the realization of this vision, setting a new benchmark for multi-state, public-private partnerships and infrastructure innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Kenney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

James C. Kenney
Secretary

New Mexico Environment Department

Cc: Ricky Serna, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Transportation

Melanie Kenderdine, Cabinet Secretary-Designate, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources
Department