



March 31, 2022

Senator Michael Bennet
1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO 80204

Re: Town of Lyons Congressionally Directed Spending Request

Dear Senator Bennet:

The Board of Trustees for the Town of Lyons respectfully requests your support for four unique projects in Lyons, which have tremendous **community benefit** as well as the support of the elected members of Lyons Board of Trustees. Our request is for funding from the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), as we are a small, municipal government. In addition, the Town of Lyons is surrounded by residents of both unincorporated Boulder and Larimer Counties and utilizes Lyons for many services.

Two of the projects are Highway Infrastructure Projects, requesting Transit Infrastructure Grants (TIG) for transit projects.

Highway Infrastructure Projects:

The **US-36 Broadway Improvements** project will greatly improve pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular safety along a federal highway through the small town of Lyons, enhancing community connectivity and attracting the attention of tourists and visitors who pass through Lyons, in addition to improving access for residents. The Town of Lyons and the business district and commercial corridor sit along and adjacent to busy US-36 Eastbound (Broadway) and are heavily utilized by visitors coming down from Rocky Mountain National Park, which is the nation's third most visited park in the USA. Safety improvements, additional parking, multi-modal trails, and a bike lane as well as other infrastructure improvements along the pedestrian corridor will positively impact long-term increases in the historic business district, stronger pedestrian connectivity, and improved business recovery, greatly enhancing the local economic vitality including the vibrant restaurant and retail corridor helping our independently-owned, small, local businesses to better recover from the economic impact from COVID regulations from the past two years. This project has been supported by both DRCOG and Boulder County Transportation Advisory Commission. It is shovel-ready for FY23 (October 2022 - September 2023). The Town of Lyons is requesting \$560K for the project.

The **St. Vrain Trail Extension** project includes converting the previous railroad right of way, along US-36, a federal highway, between the intersection of State Highway 66 and US-36 with a multi-modal trail, along the St Vrain River. Multi-modal bicycle and pedestrian trails, especially those along a river have proven to have physical, emotional, and mental health benefits allowing visitors and residents to explore the vast, great outdoors and natural environment in Lyons. Safety benefits will be greatly improved as there currently is no bike lane and a very minor shoulder with heavy commercial and recreational vehicle traffic along this section. There also will be improved economic benefits with the trail abutting the back lawn and area at Spirit Hound Distillery, in addition to other local businesses which are on the trail corridor. This project has the regional support of DRCOG and the Boulder County Transportation Advisory Commission. It is shovel-ready for FY23 (October 2022 - September 2023). The Town of Lyons is requesting \$320K for the project.



This third project is a Dept of Interior, Environment and Related Agency for a STAG Infrastructure Grant. This important sanitary sewer project is for infrastructure improvements to the **Lyons Wastewater Treatment Plant** –including an additional Batch reactor, two new blowers, SCADA system, screw press, digester, mobilization, demolition, and installation. Lyons is a bit constrained with property to locate a new plant, but infrastructure improvements utilizing STAG funds will provide much-needed treatment capabilities for the residents and improve the overall community benefit for future generations as well as small business development that may want to grow their businesses in Lyons. This project would be shovel-ready for FY23 (October 2022 - September 2023). The Town of Lyons is requesting \$3.2M for the project.

We also have requested funding support for Letter of Map Revision (LOMAR), to update our floodplain mapping. Since the federally-declared disaster in 2013, one third of the community of Lyons now lies within the special flood hazard area. The town is seeking funding to better map the flood plain boundaries. This project would fit within the FY23 timeframe.

We invite you or your staff to contact our town administrator if you have any questions. On behalf of the residents of Lyons, the Lyons Board of Trustees hopes you will consider your support of these worthy projects.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Angelo, Mayor
Town of Lyons