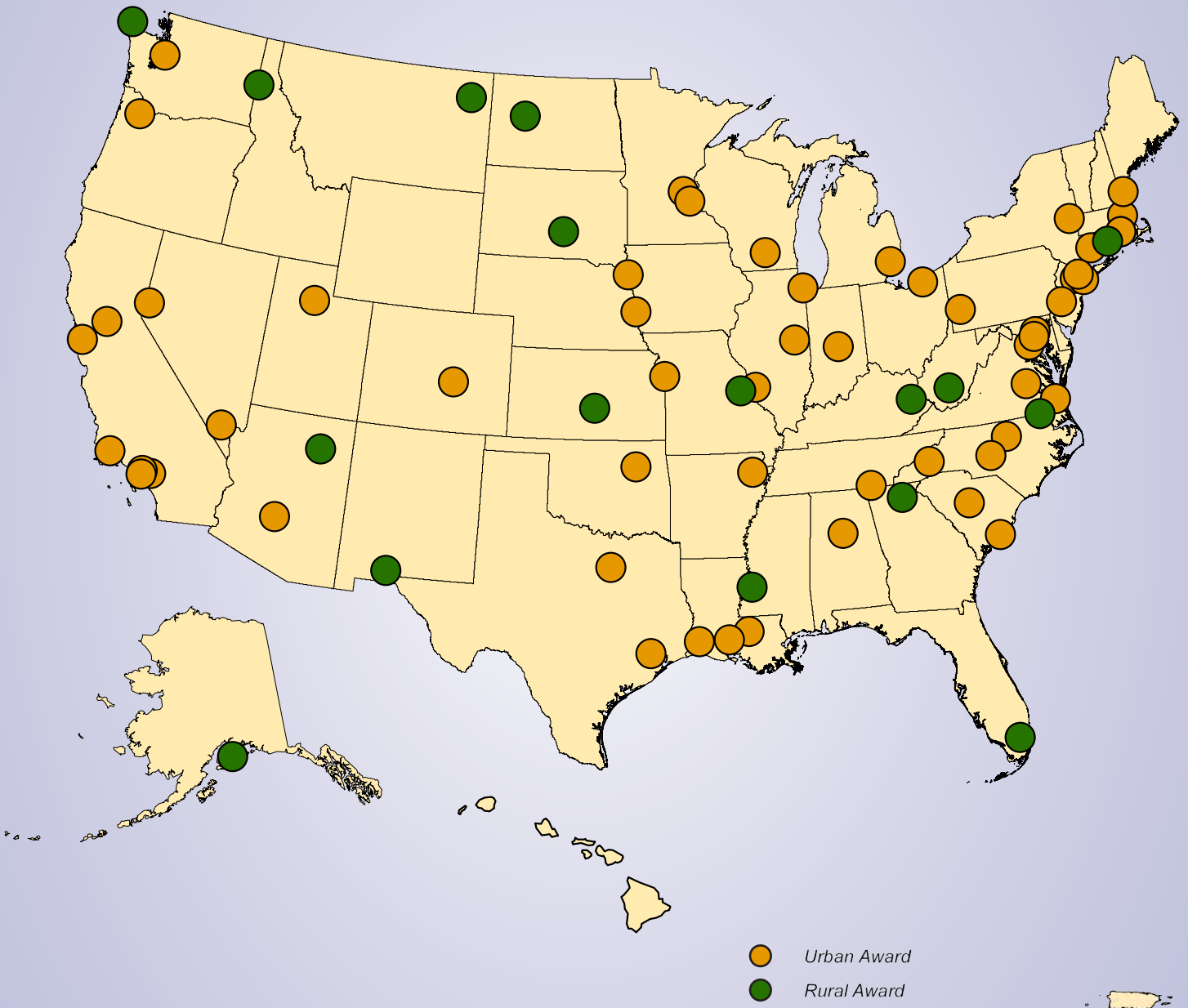


# TIGER

## 2014 AWARDS



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

# THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF ROUTE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

**APPLICANT/SPONSOR:** City of Garden City

Rural

**TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$24,269,963

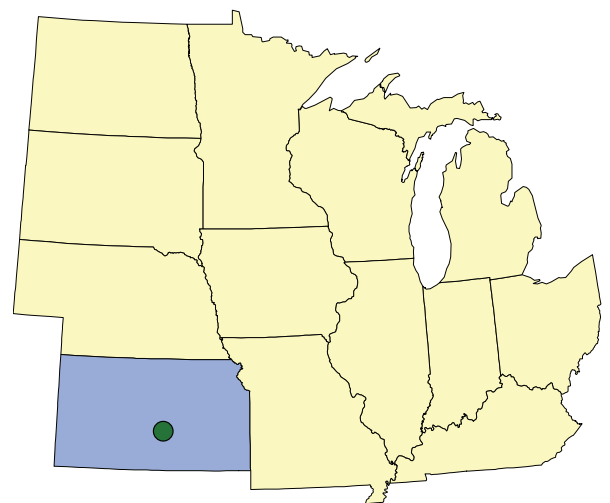
**GRANT FUNDING:** \$12,469,963

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This TIGER project will restore bolted rail between Hutchinson, Kansas and Las Animas, Colorado--over which Amtrak's Southwest Chief currently travels--to a much safer and higher performing standard featuring continuously welded rail, new turnouts, and panelized grade crossings. Improvements are being targeted to locations with the most urgent needs, preventing additional deterioration of service in the immediate future.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- » Directly benefits more than 355,000 Amtrak passengers annually through increased reliability
- » Reduces travel time along the corridor by approximately 30 minutes per train once built by increasing average speed, and avoids an additional 145 minutes in travel time caused by deterioration to the rail if left unimproved by 2035.
- » Combines multiple sources of public and private funding from federal, state, and local government as well as Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Amtrak.



**CENTRAL**

## PROJECT BENEFITS

This project will make a substantial difference in the quality of passenger rail service in Kansas and eastern Colorado, which has declined in speed and reliability over the last 15 years. Good passenger rail service contributes significantly to the health and vitality of many rural communities along the route, providing mobility and access to economic opportunity.



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**TIGER**

# CHARTER OAK RANCH ROAD PLAN

**APPLICANT/SPONSOR:** El Paso County, Colorado

**TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$1,500,000

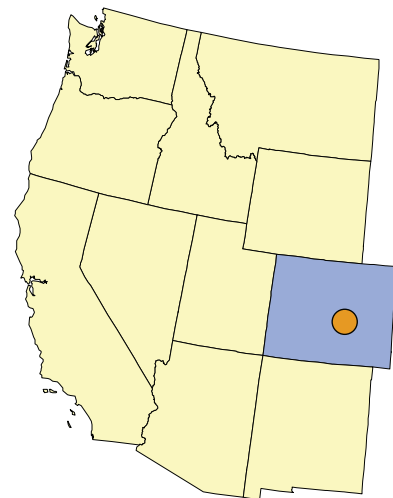
**GRANT FUNDING:** \$1,200,000

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This TIGER funded planning project will fund pre-construction activities for reconstruction of Charter Oak Ranch Road and Santa Fe Avenue leading to Gate 19 at the Fort Carson Army Post. To accommodate Fort Carson's ongoing expansion, El Paso County is working with the Army to reopen Gate 19 to provide alternate access to the base's military training infrastructure. The roads leading to Gate 19 are in substandard condition and are unable to support expected traffic resulting from the reopened gate. The project will develop conceptual design and preliminary engineering for rehabilitation of Charter Oak Ranch Road and Santa Fe Avenue.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- » Improves safety and pavement conditions for Fort Carson Gate 19 access roads to accommodate added traffic volumes.
- » Reduces commute time and congestion for soldiers and employees that must currently access Fort Carson via Gate 20 and backtrack up to five miles through the base to their destination.
- » Provides more direct access to command stations located near Gate 19.



**WEST**

## PROJECT BENEFITS

This plan aims to better connect economically disadvantaged populations in El Paso County with employment, training, and education centers at Fort Carson and adjacent areas. Reopening Gate 19 will reduce travel time and congestion for soldiers and commuters accessing the south portion of Fort Carson. The TIGER planning project will address design and pavement deficiencies on access roads to Gate 19 that create potential safety issues and would make travel inefficient and dangerous given the growing traffic demand. The roadway improvements will also increase transportation resilience for the road system and Fort Carson by adding an alternative access point onto and off the base in the event of a severe weather event, accident, or other incident.



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**TIGER**

# SANTA THERESA BORDER PLAN

Rural

**APPLICANT/SPONSOR:** New Mexico Department of Transportation

**TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$500,000

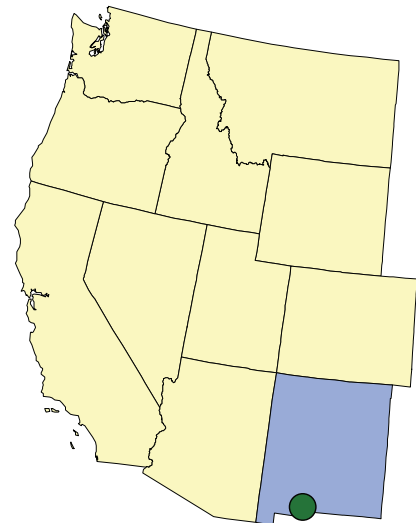
**GRANT FUNDING:** \$400,000

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TIGER funds will be used to develop the Santa Teresa Border strategic plan, which will coordinate all maintenance, planning, and capital improvements ongoing and in the future. It is a critical step in establishing a comprehensive approach for developing feasible transportation options to improve the housing-job connection for the residents of the border area. A set of construction projects which are deemed most beneficial to the region will be recommended as part of the planning process. This will allow the NMDOT to immediately move forward with addressing the transportation needs of the area, and provide guidance on potential projects to the other regional transportation agencies.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- » The plan will promote opportunities such as possible locations for second and third tier suppliers to international clients in Mexico and the creation of a strong and efficient gateway for international trade.
- » As data collection is compiled and a shared database is developed, a strong foundation for a regional asset management program will be provided.
- » The residents within the planning boundary spend more than 30 percent of their annual income on transportation alone due to lack of transportation options.



**WEST**

## PROJECT BENEFITS

The Santa Teresa Border Strategic Plan will create a framework for communicating process, data collection, and recommendations for the current set of projects as well as those to come in the future. Encouraging the collaboration and regional prioritization of transportation improvements will stretch public dollars and capitalize on private dollars resulting in more benefit to the community. The project will promote new transit service connecting to the current and expanding employment centers in Santa Teresa. This will provide options for the regional residents who are currently underserved or not served at all by transit.



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**TIGER**