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March 8, 2007

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr.
Commander, Divison West, First Army and Fort Carson
6101 Wetzel Ave
Bldg 1430
Fort Carson, CO 80913

Dear General Mixon:

I am writing to follow up on our recent phone conversations and my visit to Fort Carson last week. As always, I appreciate your hospitality, and the hospitality of your command staff, while on post.

In our discussions of Fort Carson's preparations for the arrival of the 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood, which will add between 12,000 and 15,000 troops to the Mountain Post by 2009, I shared with you my strong interest in promptly completing work on Gates 19 and 20.

Over the last two years, I have fought to help provide federal funding to make the necessary infrastructure improvements near Gate 20, at the interchange of State Highway 16 and I-25. I am extremely pleased that construction is scheduled to begin this summer and that the Colorado Department of Transportation has committed \$45 million to match with federal and local funding sources. The transportation infrastructure improvements near Gate 20 are essential to the mission of the post, the quality of life of military families, and the safety of drivers on those roads. I will continue to fight to ensure that this project is completed as soon as possible.

Like Gate 20, the construction of Gate 19 on the eastern boundary of Fort Carson will provide a vital link between the Mountain Post and the communities of Fountain and Pueblo.

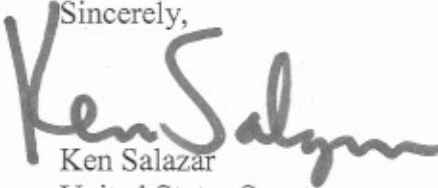
Together, these two gates will allow a high volume of commuter traffic from Pueblo and Fountain. They will bind Fort Carson to communities on its southern boundary as strongly as they bind the post to Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak area. By reducing the traffic backlog, the two gates will shorten the commute from Pueblo to Gate 19 and Gate 20 to no more than 20 minutes. This will help our soldiers living on the south side of the post, and it will provide families moving to the region additional options for housing.

The construction of Gate 19 and the improvements at Gate 20 will multiply the positive impact of Fort Carson's expansion on southern Colorado. The Mountain Post is an asset that can yield benefits to communities far beyond its fenceline, thanks to the hospitality, workforce, housing, and support that cities like Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Widefield, Fountain, and others can provide.

I ask that you continue to keep me updated on the progress of work near Gate 20. I also respectfully request that you consider the construction of Gate 19 as a high priority as you move forward with your military construction plans on the post. As we look beyond the immediate future, Gate 19 will have an important role to play in linking Fort Carson to neighboring communities.

I appreciate your consideration of my request, and I look forward to our continued work to prepare the Mountain Post for the soldiers and families that are coming to the Pikes Peak Region.

Thank you again for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar
United States Senator