



STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Carson City, Nevada 89712

JOE LOMBARDO  
Governor

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Director

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The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is providing a letter of endorsement for Barton Health's proposed Critical Access Hospital (CAH) near 155 Highway 50, Stateline, Nevada 89449, in recognition of the mountainous terrain stipulated by Code of Federal Regulation (42 CFR 485.610[c]), which highlights the unique challenges posed by the region's topography.

Both the existing Barton Health Hospital and its proposed new location in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range are pursuing a CAH designation due to the specific engineering and landscape challenges presented by the mountainous terrain, which satisfy the distance criteria for CAH qualification.

Per 42 CFR 485.610[c], Barton Health is obligated to satisfy any of the subsequent minimum driving distance prerequisites, which are summarized as follows:

1. 35-mile threshold.
2. 15-mile standard (applicable to regions characterized by mountainous terrain or featuring secondary roads).
3. Exemption from distance requisites for CAHs that were designated as essential providers prior to January 1, 2006.

When considering item 2, the 15-mile distance exemption in mountainous terrain, it's essential to assess the specific terrain and location of the proposed Health Hospital. The Tahoe Basin within the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range exemplifies such characteristics, featuring challenging slopes and demonstrating typical engineering features indicative of mountain terrain.

An analysis utilizing the distance requirement was conducted on both the US-50 and NV-28 corridors. These corridors feature steep grades, characterized by continuous horizontal and vertical alignments. Moreover, significant portions of these corridors necessitate construction techniques aimed at achieving compatibility between road alignment and the rugged terrain. Such techniques often involve frequent benching of roadbeds, side hill excavations, and embankment fills as summarized in Table 1, and Attachment 1 Map.

Table 1: Proposed Barton Health to other CAH or Hospital	
	Total Mountainous Terrain (Miles)
US-50 Corridor to Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center	19.44
US-50 and NV-28 Corridor to Incline Village Community	21.16

In summary, NDOT respectfully submits this letter and accompanying map detailing mountainous terrain mileages as the requisite documentation. This acknowledgment addresses the unique circumstances pertinent to our rural location, satisfies the mountainous distance requirements, and underscores the challenging mountainous terrain we navigate. This acknowledgment is crucial for facilitating Barton Health's ability to maintain its essential healthcare services for the Tahoe Basin community.

Sincerely,

Tracy Larkin Thomason, P.E.,  
Director

Attachment 1: Map