

## **COMMERCE CITY**

### **Federal Legislative Concerns**

Commerce City is grateful for the continued partnership with the Colorado Congressional Delegation and federal agencies to advance city priorities benefiting our growing community.

Commerce City prioritizes the following federal policy and funding objectives as critical to public safety, economic development, environmental health, and community well-being.

### **RAILROADS**

Commerce City continues to experience frequent train blockages, often exceeding ten minutes, along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific rail corridors. These blockages impede emergency services, constrain limited east-west and north-south travel routes, increase congestion, and worsen air quality due to vehicle idling.

While the Federal Railroad Administration maintains safety oversight authority, current federal law limits FRA's ability to regulate train length and blocked crossings. The Colorado Legislature enacted HB24-1030; however, the proposed ten-minute blockage standard was removed from the final legislation.

Federal priorities include dedicated funding for rail crossing safety improvements and grade-separated crossings, investments in rail freight corridors, and guidance supporting blocked-crossing mitigation and quiet zone implementation.

### **COMMUNICATIONS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Commerce City supports balanced federal broadband and wireless deployment policies that preserve reasonable local zoning authority while enabling equitable access to next-generation communications infrastructure, including 5G.

### **ARPA & EXECUTIVE ORDER 14099**

American Rescue Plan Act funding supported emergency rental assistance, behavioral health services, and public health programming. As ARPA funds sunset, Commerce City emphasizes sustaining successful programs through ongoing federal formula programs.

Executive Order 14099 directs federal agencies to coordinate housing-first approaches and reduce administrative barriers. Continued flexibility within the CDBG program remains critical.

### **INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT**

The Investment Tax Credit for solar energy was extended under the Inflation Reduction Act, providing a 30 percent credit through 2032 with scheduled step-downs thereafter. Commerce City supports stability and predictability in federal clean energy incentives to enable long-term planning.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Commerce City advocates for increased federal investment in transportation infrastructure to support roadway safety, freight mobility, transit connectivity, and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

The City continues to pursue competitive federal grants, including RAISE, and supports Community Project Funding requests. Constrained discretionary funding requires a diversified federal strategy including competitive grants, formula programs, and congressionally directed spending.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Protecting air and water quality remains a top priority due to the City's industrial history and proximity to major transportation corridors. Commerce City supports continued partnership with EPA Region 8 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure monitoring, remediation, and environmental equity.

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge encompasses approximately 15,000 acres. While most cleanup actions are complete and portions have been removed from the National Priorities List, long-term monitoring and stewardship responsibilities remain.

### **PFAS CLEANUP**

Commerce City seeks full accountability for PFAS contamination consistent with EPA drinking water standards and hazardous substance designations. Reductions in discretionary funding for enforcement and Superfund activities could slow remediation efforts.

City priorities include ensuring responsible parties bear cleanup costs, supporting continued EPA oversight, leveraging state implementation of HB24-1338, and pursuing available federal funding sources.

### **HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Federal housing programs remain essential to addressing housing affordability, rehabilitation needs, and tenant protections. Commerce City strongly supports

continued appropriations for the Community Development Block Grant program, which funds housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, and habitability remediation.

Commerce City supports long-term stability of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and continued funding for Housing Choice Vouchers, public housing capital funds, and Section 8 project-based assistance. The City supports strengthened HUD inspection and enforcement protocols, including NSPIRE.

### **INCOME SUPPORTS**

Commerce City supports expansion and enhancement of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit to improve economic security for working families.

The City remains engaged in federal discussions to protect and strengthen SNAP benefits and supports sustained Medicaid access to reduce coverage disruptions for low-income residents.