

September 6, 2012

Mr. Reza Akhavan
Colorado Department of Transportation
2000 South Holly Street
Denver, CO 80222

RE: I-70 East Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preferred Alignment

Dear Mr. Akhavan:

The North Area Transportation Alliance, NATA for short, is an association of eleven local governments, the Metro North Chamber, Adams County Economic Development Corporation, and businesses in the north east quadrant of the metro Denver area. NATA's partnership of public and private entities work to identify, develop, advocate and lobby for transportation solutions that will enhance mobility, drive economic development and reduce traffic congestion in the north metro area.

At its August 23, 2012 meeting, NATA was provided an update on the progress of the I-70 East EIS. The Board identified several issues related to the EIS that they asked be passed on to the appropriate officials.

It is our understanding that an alternative realignment option has been proposed which would re-route I-70 using I-76 and I-270. Our concern with this realignment option is that it primarily impacts the north metro area and simply shifts the problem to the north, compounding significant congestion issues that have yet to be addressed. NATA does not support this option and requests it be removed from consideration.

NATA also was advised that CDOT recently proposed an option for the Swansea and Elyria communities which would remove the viaduct and reconstruct I-70 below ground. A portion of I-70 would be partially covered to provide additional open space and community uses. We understand this option has the support of these communities and we want to express our support of this option as well. It appears to be an innovative, workable solution for all involved.

We want to congratulate CDOT on developing a workable solution that not only improves I-70 on the existing alignment but is one which the communities can support. We look forward to the State reaching a Record of Decision on the I-70 East Final EIS in the near future.

Sincerely,

Nancy McNally, Chair

Cc:

CDOT Commissioner Heather Barry

The Honorable Michael Hancock, Mayor of the City and County of Denver

Kirk Webb, I-70 East EIS Project Manager, CDOT

North Area Transportation Alliance Members:

Adams County

Adams County Economic Development

City of Brighton

City & County of Broomfield

City of Commerce City

Town of Dacono

Town of Erie

Town of Firestone

Town of Frederick

City of Longmont

Metro North Chamber

City of Northglenn

City of Thornton

City of Westminster

Smart Commute Metro North TMO