



Federal Advocacy Trip/NLC Conference Update

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February 10, 2020

Background

- The annual City Council advocacy trip is an important opportunity for the Council to discuss topics of interest to our community with the Colorado Delegation and agency leaders.
- The trip is connected to the bi-annual NLC conference in an effort to maximize the effectiveness of the trip and use public funds in the most responsible manner.

Purpose

- It is most effective for the council to speak with a common voice about select issues of importance.
 - Tonight’s meeting is intended to allow the Council to review and discuss the proposed issues and discussion points to be covered during the advocacy trip.
 - Following tonight’s meeting staff will develop a meeting-based strategy for each meeting, outlining relevant background information and talking points.





Colorado Congressional Delegation and White House Intergovernmental Affairs Meeting(s): Proposed Discussion Topics

March 2020



Transportation Infrastructure

Federal Railroad Administration

- Increase federal funding
 - Support for Commerce City’s FRA CRISI grant application
- Quiet zone improvements
- Funding for grade separated crossings
- Improve hazardous material tanker design
- Promote solutions for safety & blocked crossings

Infrastructure Plan

- Plan introduced by House Democrats in January and The US Senate plans to pursue legislation to reauthorize transportation funding expiring in October 2020.
 - Discuss Commerce City Needs and Key Projects
 - How Federal funding would improve the likelihood of completion

RMANWR

- Continue funding for on-going Superfund site clean-up.
- EPA Superfund success story – 350,000 visitors annual.
 - Exploring programs with USFWLS to increase urban interface
 - Community garden and urban beekeeping possibility

Telecommunication facility rules impact local authority

- Remove limits on review time
- Allow communities to charge the appropriate fees and a reasonable amount for right-of-way usage
- Allow communities to place conditions on facilities and determine what their communities should look like

Solar Power

- Extend Investment Tax Credit by 5 years
 - Provides 30% tax credit for solar installations
 - ITC has created 200,000 jobs and \$140 billion in private investment
 - Solar energy is an American success story

USDA - SNAP

- Supplemental Nutrition Aid Program
 - Changes to waivers take place April 1, 2020
 - Reduces recipients by 688,000 and saves an estimated \$5.5 billion over five years
 - Attempting to obtain local data on program use



House Ways and Means

- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
 - Tax credit for low to moderate income earners that benefits households and individuals





US Fish and Wildlife Service

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March 2020

USFWS Background

- Agency of the Department of the Interior
- Management of fish, wildlife, habitats
- Oversees National Wildlife Refuge System
 - 150.3M acres total
- RMANWR is approx. 16,000 acres

Refuge

- Highlight the importance of the Refuge and community benefits
- Tout as model for national clean-up efforts
- Reinforce positive partnership
 - How can city support USFWS interests?
- Invite Director to tour RMANWR



Other Topics

- Finishing Lake Mary infrastructure upgrade
- Federal Lands Access Program
- Plan for beekeeping on refuge
- 5-year review period taking place from April to year-end
- Plague





Environmental Protection Agency

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March 2020

EPA Background

- Independent agency
- Conducts environmental assessments, research, education
- Creates & enforces national standards
- Oversees Arsenal remediation
 - Deed restrictions
- PFAS

Victory Crossing

- Development would provide broad economic benefit to community
- Testing shows no site contamination
- Clear process to remove deed restrictions
- Development would highlight refuge clean-up success story

Refuge

- City appreciates support in continued improvement efforts
- Refuge first, arsenal second
 - Beekeeping
 - Urban garden
 - Wildlife
 - Trails and camping
- Highlight the success story



Housing and Urban Development

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March 2020

HUD Background

- Cabinet Department
- Develop and implement policies and programs to provide sustainable housing
- Administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program

CDBG Success

- Became direct recipient in 2016
- Allocated approximately \$2.2M over 5 years
- Successes in first 3 years:
 - Prevented 151 residents from becoming homeless
 - Rehabilitated 46 owner-occupied homes
 - Assisted over 150 entrepreneurs
 - Constructed 1,560 linear feet of ADA sidewalks

Requests

- Raise Davis-Bacon threshold for non-residential construction from \$2,000 to at least \$100,000
- Protect and increase CDBG funding
 - Never adjusted for inflation





Federal Highway Administration

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March 2020

FHWA Background

- Division of Department of Transportation
- Sponsors and conducts research in road safety, congestion, construction
- Administers Federal-aid Highway Program
 - Oversees federal funds used for projects on the National Highway System

Funding

- US 85/120th Ave.
- I-270 (Vasquez interchange)
- Widen 88th Ave.





Federal Railroad Administration

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March 2020

FRA Background

- Division of Department of Transportation
- Regulates all passenger and freight rail
 - Not closed rail or light rail
- Provides funding through grant programs

Transportation Infrastructure

- Increase federal funding
 - Support for FRA CRISI grant application
- Quiet zone improvements
- Funding for grade separated crossings
- Improve hazardous material tanker design
- Promote solutions to blocked crossings
- Data about blockages and future collaborations



Department of Defense

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March 2020

DoD Background

- Cabinet Department
- Oversees all agencies related to national security and the armed forces
- Department of the Army owns Arsenal land

Refuge

- Ongoing partnership
- Beekeeping and urban garden
- New water treatment plant 2022
- 5-year review period taking place from April to year-end
- How can the City be a better partner?