



May 7, 2018

Mr. Dave Kosmiski
Colorado Department of Transportation
4670 Holly Street
Denver CO, 80216

RE: City of Commerce City Comments on the draft I-270-Vasquez Blvd. Planning and Environmental Linkage Study, Early Action Items

Dear Mr. Kosmiski,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft I-270/Vasquez Blvd. Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study, specifically the Early Action Items.

Both I-270 and Vasquez Boulevard are major thoroughfares in our community. The City of Commerce City participated in the planning study in an effort to collaborate with CDOT, other communities along the corridor, and all stakeholders to find solutions that balance critical regional mobility needs while minimizing impacts of the roadway on adjacent commercial & residential areas.

As previously communicated, the City Council reviewed the three alternatives at a Study Session in September 25, 2017 and expressed general support for the One-Way Pairs concept due to its potential for opportunities for redevelopment and connectivity. The Council did not support the Viaduct Alternative.

On March 12, 2018, the City Council reviewed the proposed Early Action Items. Generally, the city is concerned that local access is being compromised in favor of regional mobility. For example, access at and near the intersection of 60th Avenue limits movement choices for people wishing to access local businesses, homes and the city's recreation center. More refinement of all of the proposed action items will be needed before the city can support proceeding to construction. Also, at this time, the city cannot commit any financial support either through monetary contributions or right-of-way dedications.

Specific comments on the various early action items are included below:

Construction of I-270 "Missing" Ramp (1a) & I-270 Partial Cloverleaf Intersections (1b)

The City Council is supportive of not constructing the missing on ramp until more details are known about the future interchange of I-270 with Vasquez Boulevard.



Instead, modifying the interchange to become a partial cloverleaf configuration appears to have merit from both a safety and congestion standpoint.

Frontage Road System at 60th Avenue (2)

The City Council feels that the proposed traffic signal is too close to US 85 to garner much benefit. Also, the relocated frontage roads, as proposed, significantly hinder development in the southwest quadrant. Instead, installing a traffic signal at Clermont Street, along with connecting frontage roads, may be of more benefit to the entire area, west of US 85.

Traffic Signal at 62nd Avenue (3)

The City Council is supportive of improved access from Vasquez Boulevard to the Mile High Greyhound Park development area. However, the proposed design with a traffic signal at the intersection of 62nd Avenue with Vasquez Boulevard raises questions as to how traffic will travel along and across Highway 2.

Close Parkway Drive (3b)

This is an example of where local access is being compromised in favor of regional mobility. Limiting access to Parkway Drive will significantly impact businesses in the area. Instead, the City Council requests that consideration be given to connecting Parkway Drive, to the east, at or near the existing traffic signal to the WalMart site.

Modify Slope Paving under I-270 at 56th Avenue (4)

The City Council is supportive of not constructing this improvement until more details are known about the future interchange of I-270 with Vasquez Boulevard.

Pedestrian Connection along 56th Avenue (5)

The City Council is supportive of constructing this improvement.

Construction of "Jug Handle" at Vasquez Blvd. & 56th Ave. (6)

The City Council is supportive of constructing this improvement however, further refinement is needed to ensure drivers exiting I-270 can easily navigate this movement, adequate signage is installed, and vehicles southbound on Vasquez Blvd. do not have to merge with vehicles using the jug handle.

While the City recognizes the PEL provides a high-level overview of potential transportation solutions and associated impacts, further information is needed on the impacts of these short-term improvements on the local road network as well as potential out-of-direction travel & subsequent impacts on adjacent property owners. This information will be needed in order to better evaluate the Immediate Action items in context with the potential issues and impacts.

Thank you for working with Commerce City to find the right solutions for I-270 & Vasquez Boulevard. We look forward to working with CDOT to finalize this



preliminary study and advancing the needed environmental clearances to move forward much-needed safety & mobility improvements.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sean Ford

cc: City Council of Commerce City
Adam County Board of Commissioners
Colorado Transportation Commissioner Karen Stuart
Paul Jesaitis, Region 1 Transportation Director