



March 15, 2022

Mayor Benjamin Huseman  
City of Commerce City  
7887 E. 60th Ave.,  
Commerce City, CO 80022

Dear Mayor Huseman,

Denver International Airport (DEN) is currently seeking \$14.8 million in federal funding under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 2022 Grant program, for the advancement of the Peña Boulevard Transportation and Mobility master plan improvements. Specifically, this grant would help fund the preconstruction, shovel-ready designs, and environmental studies for the proposed reconstruction of Peña Boulevard from I70 to Gun Club Road. The RAISE Grant is issued by the U.S Department of Transportation (DOT) and will be evaluated based on merit criteria that includes a heavy focus on regionalism and community connectivity. DEN would greatly appreciate your collaboration through a submittal letter of support to the DOT.

Peña Boulevard is a 11.1-mile-long roadway that provides the only roadway access to DEN while also offering connectivity to numerous off-airport developments and communities. As you know, DEN applied for the 2021 RAISE Grant funding for the Peña Boulevard Mobility and Transportation Master Plan Study (Master Plan Study) and although the application was unsuccessful, DEN is funding and initiating the Master Plan Study in Spring of 2022. Through agency stakeholder outreach and engagement, the Master Plan Study will collaboratively identify solutions for Peña Boulevard that enhance environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and connectivity, economic competitiveness, and reduce barriers to opportunity, while addressing the aging infrastructure. The 2022 RAISE Grant funding would allow DEN to advance the solutions from the Master Plan Study through the design and environmental phases.

Notably, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibits the use of airport revenue for non-aeronautical use. Based on the increased non-aeronautical use of Peña Boulevard, the FAA determined that, for the segment of Peña Boulevard west of E-470, DEN may only fund maintenance, capital improvement costs, and future debt service on a pro rata basis, based on airport versus non-airport traffic. Therefore, DEN must find non-airport sources of revenue to contribute to maintaining this critical regional roadway.

Peña Boulevard is a regional transportation asset serving as the main arterial to DEN which supports over 30,000 jobs, 1,200 companies, 25 airlines, 155,000 indirect jobs, 69 million travelers in 2019 and contributes over \$33 billion to the State of Colorado's economy. DEN recently launched the Vison 100 plan to prepare for 100 million annual passengers within 10 years. To accommodate this projected growth and address aging infrastructure, DEN recognizes the need for investment for Peña Boulevard.

DEN is committed to regionalism and deeply values our partnership as neighbors. This grant will benefit employees, passengers, and our metro area communities and I have enclosed a draft letter of support for your consideration. An essential element of the letter speaks to the regional nature of Peña Boulevard and regional support for the project. Our submission date to the DOT is Monday, April 14th. If you are willing to provide support, I would appreciate your letter by Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip A. Washington".

Phillip A. Washington  
CEO, Denver International Airport