

Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Hickenlooper
374 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper,

The cities of Commerce City, Brighton, and Thornton fully support Adams County's FY-2022 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for the US 85/120th Avenue interchange project. This project would provide much needed multi-modal improvements to the US 85 corridor, specifically focused on enhancing highway and railroad operations to improve safety, freight movement, mobility, and accessibility.

The US 85 corridor is the transportation backbone of the region with 120th Avenue being a major connector to Denver International Airport (DEN). A new interchange significantly improves the safety for all transportation modes serving numerous communities and industries relying heavily upon the highway and railway to deliver goods and resources. This project will support the economic vitality of the region by improving the movement of freight commodities associated with agriculture, energy markets (renewable and fossil fuels), and other sectors. The project will also reduce barriers separating farm-to-market workforces from employment centers, and support new commercial and industrial development. Additionally, it will improve the everyday travel of workers, residents, and visitors, reducing delays and accidents.

Northern Colorado is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation and the fastest in Colorado. Overall corridor usage on US 85 has doubled since the 1990s causing a host of operational and safety issues that interfere with the movement of goods and people; notably, another doubling in usage is projected by 2040. These increases will continue to exacerbate the challenging issues faced today. The operational issues of this corridor caused by the minimal distance between the highway and railroad have negatively impacted the corridor's safety, capacity, and mobility. This also has a significant negative impact on air quality in the region due to increased emissions.

Adams County's FY-2022 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for the US 85/120th Avenue interchange is the right project to make long-term consolidated infrastructure and safety improvements to Colorado's transportation network. We look forward to working with Adams County to implement this project and significantly improve commuter safety for those in the region.

Sincerely,