

April 21, 2014

Executive Director Don Hunt
Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 E. Arkansas Avenue
Denver, CO 80022

RE: I-70 East Preferred Alternative

Dear Director Hunt:

For more than ten years, the City of Commerce City has participated with the City and County of Denver, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and other stakeholders to evaluate and develop an alternative for the Interstate 70 East, corridor improvement project that would improve safety, access, and mobility while addressing the increasing congestion that plagues the corridor. The City considers this project to be of local, regional, and national significance; and, therefore has actively participated in project development with the goal of achieving consensus around a project which, in the end, achieves a regional solution.

The current preferred alternative would reconstruct the I-70 viaduct in its current location and alignment, placing the new structure below grade between Brighton Boulevard and Colorado Boulevard. This alternative, also known as the Partially Covered, Lowered (PCL), will replace the viaduct with a lowered highway and will provide enhanced multimodal connectivity and strengthen the existing Globeville, Elyria and Swansea communities through a partial cover over the highway.

Commerce City has previously supported this alternative and, the City will continue to support this alternative as we feel it creates a new sense of place and community for the neighborhoods while also encouraging and promoting regional connectivity and access to this important U.S. highway.

Within the past year, the City and County of Denver has been exploring the possibility of constructing a second "lid" on I-70 to further enhance neighborhood connectivity. Commerce City expressed significant concerns about this proposal as it would have closed the Steele/Vasquez interchange access to I-70 which is a key connection to our city. In fact, Vasquez Boulevard is only one of three north/south routes that serve our entire community of 50,000. On April 7, 2014, the Denver City Council approved a resolution which confirms the City's planning for the I-70 project will maintain the Steele/Vasquez access to I-70 as an important local and regional access point for businesses needing access to the interstate for commerce.

Commerce City appreciates Denver City Council and Mayor Hancock's willingness to seek solutions at the interchange that benefit both cities. We also appreciate CDOT's efforts to facilitate discussions and the agency's commitment to advance a preferred alternative that maintains this access in the supplemental environmental impact statement.

We believe the I-70 project represents a regional opportunity to build a state-of-the-art facility that enhances local neighborhoods, generates economic investment and creates connections irrespective of municipal boundaries.

We look forward to the release of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement this summer and, ultimately, construction, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sean Ford
City of Commerce City

cc: Mayor Michael Hancock
Denver City Council
Adams County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Tony DeVito, CDOT Region 1 Director