



Ms. Frances Bourne  
Office of Policy and Planning  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W38-207  
Washington DC 20590

November 9, 2021

**RE: Support of Colorado's US 85/120th Avenue Interchange – CRISI Grant Application**

Dear Ms. Bourne & Selection Committee:

The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a coalition of thirteen local governments, the Adams County Regional Economic Partnership (ACREP) and Smart Commute Metro North Transportation Management Organization (SCMN) in the northeast quadrant of the metro Denver area. NATA's partnership of public and private entities collaboratively work together to identify, develop, advocate, and promote transportation solutions that will enhance mobility, drive economic development, and reduce traffic congestion in the north area. Our goal is to ensure an effective regional transportation system that can foster a high quality of life and maintain a highly skilled workforce to support our diverse industries in demand in today's economy.

NATA fully supports the US 85/120th Avenue Interchange CRISI Grant application to provide the much-needed 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. 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, 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, by reducing delays and addressing existing safety issues.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sandgren, Chair  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Thornton

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