



March 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY 2021 INFRA grant application for Colorado Interstate 270 Corridor Safety and Mobility Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a coalition of thirteen local governments, the Adams County Regional Economic Partnership and Smart Commute Metro North Transportation Management Organization in the north east quadrant of the metro Denver area. NATA's partnership of public and private entities work collaboratively to identify, develop, advocate and promote sustainable transportation solutions that will enhance mobility, drive economic development and reduce traffic congestion in the north area.

NATA fully supports this grant application that will modernize the entire six-mile length of I-270 and bring long overdue improvements at local interchanges that will provide economic vitality through appropriate development and multimodal connections.

Interstate 270 serves as the gateway connecting northern Denver metro communities with eastern metro areas including Denver International Airport. I-270 is a National Freight corridor, heavily used by commercial vehicles and is the logistics center for the state and a key economic driver in the region. Over the past decade, I-270 has become the most heavily-congested corridor in the state, resulting in negative economic impacts due to excessive delays and unreliable travel times. Emergency freeway closures occur at an increasing rate to make necessary repairs to failing bridges and crumbling infrastructure designed in the 1960s. Through an ongoing Environmental Assessment, solutions have been identified that will replace decaying infrastructure, improve safety through improved roadway geometry, and improve traffic flow and travel time reliability through the corridor. Wide shoulders will provide flexibility for emergency response vehicles and safely accommodate truck breakdowns. Relieving congestion and improving multimodal connections will promote lower greenhouse gas emissions in the corridor. This project will address many of the physical constraints of the road which will improve safety for the travelling public and enhance connectivity to the rest of the freight network in the United States.

At the core of the project, the outdated US6/Vasquez Boulevard interchange is a safety hazard for automobiles and pedestrians alike. The I-270 Corridor Safety and Mobility Project will eliminate the substandard "clover-leaf" loop ramps, add acceleration/auxiliary lanes to improve merging operations, and include extensive pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including trail connections to the regional Sand Creek Greenway. As a package, the I-270 improvements will reduce barriers to opportunity for lower income individuals by accommodating alternate forms of transportation, increasing travel time reliability, and reducing negative environmental impacts that are heavily present in the corridor.

The I-270 Corridor Improvements Project has long been on NATA's top priority list. The thirteen local governments of NATA wholeheartedly support this grant application and request USDOT prioritize INFRA grant funding for this important project.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sandgren, Chair  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Thornton

Adams County

Firestone

Brighton

Frederick

Broomfield

Longmont

Commerce City

Northglenn

Dacono

Thornton

Erie

Federal Heights

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Adams County Regional Economic Partnership

Smart Commute Metro North TMO