



Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC, 20590

February 23, 2023

RE: Support of The City of Commerce City's 88th Avenue Improvements from I-76 to Highway 2 RAISE Grant Application

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 Transportation Management Organization in the northeast quadrant of the metro Denver area. NATA's partnership of public and private entities collaborate work to identify, develop, advocate for 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 that are in demand in today's economy.

NATA fully supports the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the East 88th Avenue construction project that is being submitted by Commerce City. This project provides critical improvements for approximately 1.6 miles along the East 88th Avenue corridor between Interstate 76 and State Highway 2. The primary focus of this project is to improve traffic operations accommodate current and future general vehicular traffic, freight mobility, bicycles, and pedestrians.

East 88th Avenue provides access to adjacent industrial, commercial, and residential land uses. The project lacks pedestrian and bicycle facilities and has a number of bus stops serving Regional Transportation (RTD) Route 88 on Brighton Road just south of 88th Avenue. These improvements will create a more cohesive travel route connecting numerous communities currently identified as "underserved" and/or "disadvantaged" due to lack of walkability, transit accessibility, and multimodal facilities.

In addition, the East 88th Avenue project will increase roadway capacity, provide a new bridge over the O'Brien Canal west of Rosemary Street, create a safer crossing of the UP railroad line, reconnect roadway and driveway access points, improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and upgrade lighting, drainage and landscaping for the surrounding community

We look forward to working closely with Commerce City, and other agencies and partners as needed, to move this important project forward.

Sincerely,

Greg Mills
Brighton Mayor, NATA Chair