



September 28, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2023 RCN/NAE Grant Application; City of Thornton Washington Street Multimodal Path Underpass

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a coalition of thirteen local governments, 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 work collaboratively 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 diverse industries in demand in today's economy.

We are writing to extend our support for the funding application submitted by the City of Thornton, Colorado, U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods/Neighborhood Access and Equity (RCN/NAE) Grant Program. The City of Thornton is requesting \$11,296,000 with 0% match to improve the safety and walkability of disadvantaged neighborhoods in southwest Thornton, to connect those neighborhoods to resources and critical services, and to reduce crashes involving pedestrians that result in fatalities or serious injuries.

Safety is of the utmost importance to the city and NATA region. The Lambertson Lakes Homestead Masterplan, Phase I implementation will help Thornton improve its overall transportation system. Phase I consists of capital infrastructure improvements including a pedestrian underpass through the high-volume Washington Street, a trail connecting the underpass through the Homestead property to Grange Hall Creek Trail, and trail-related amenities including trailhead, parking, restroom, bridge, and lighting. Phase I will also mitigate homeless encampments that have made Grange Hall Creek Trail undesirable for pedestrians. Overall, the project promises to improve safety for vulnerable walking and biking travelers in an equitable fashion for Thornton's underserved communities.

NATA respectfully requests that you give the City of Thornton's grant application full and fair consideration under all applicable laws.

Sincerely,

Greg Mills
NATA Chair