



March 22, 2022

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

RE: 2022 RAISE Grant Application, The City of Commerce City 88th Avenue Improvements from I-76-Highway 2

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a coalition of thirteen local governments, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce, Adams County Economic Development and Smart Commute Metro North 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.

The purpose of this letter is to serve as confirmation of NATA's support for the 88th Avenue, 1-76 to Highway 2, construction project that is being submitted by Commerce City, subject to annual appropriations. Improvements to the project area for E. 88th Ave and Rosemary Street have been a part of the Commerce City Comprehensive Plan since 2010. The 88th Avenue Widening project kicked off in 2018 with the NEPA study and pre-design work. The E. 88th Ave project was awarded a Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) 2018 Grant for NEPA and Preliminary Design to help the project become a reality. In 2020, the project was awarded another DRCOG grant for final design and right-of-way acquisition, showing how much regional support exists for this improvement. The project is currently in 50% design and the NEPA decision document (Finding Of No Significant Impact, FONSI) was finalized in October 2021.

The City of Commerce City, Colorado is proposing to improve approximately 1.6 miles of E. 88th Avenue between Interstate 76 (I-76) and Highway 2. The purpose of the E. 88th Avenue project is to improve traffic operations and accommodate current and future general vehicular traffic, heavy trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians on E. 88th Avenue between I-76 and Highway 2. The E. 88th Avenue corridor has one travel lane in each direction with signalized intersections at the northbound I-76 on- and off-ramps, Brighton Road, Rosemary Street, and Highway 2.

E. 88th Avenue provides access to adjacent industrial, commercial, and residential land uses. The project area lacks pedestrian and bicycle facilities and has north- and southbound- bus stops serving north/south Regional Transportation District Route 88 on Brighton Road just south of E. 88th Avenue. These improvements would create a much more cohesive travel route connecting numerous municipalities within an area of EJ. The E. 88th Avenue project will improve capacity on East 88th Avenue, provide a new bridge over the O'Brian Canal west of Rosemary Street, analyze roadway and driveway access points, improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve lighting, drainage, and landscaping for the community.

NATA looks forward to working closely Commerce City, and other agencies and partners as needed, to move this important project forward.

Sincerely,

Lynn Baca
NATA Chair
CC: NATA Membership