

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE NORTH I-25 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AND URGING THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INITIATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY OF THE ADDITIONAL GENERAL PURPOSE LANES FROM E-470 SOUTH TO U.S. 36.

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Colorado Department of Transportation ("CDOT") initiated an Environmental Assessment ("EA") for improvements to enhance the capacity and safety of I-25 between SH 7 and SH 66; and

WHEREAS, the EA was followed by a "Finding of No Significant Impact" in 1995 that enabled CDOT to proceed with a series of construction projects that are still ongoing including the current construction activities between SH 119 and S.H.66 and acquisitions of right-of-way and utility relocations between SH 119 and SH 66; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1990s, CDOT, in conjunction with regional planning groups, undertook the North Front Range Transportation Alternatives Feasibility Study (TAFS) to evaluate an extensive range of alternative highway improvements, bus-transit alternatives, passenger-rail alternatives, and travel demand management programs from SH 7 to SH14; and

WHEREAS, the TAFS was published in March 2000 and produced a Vision Plan that included inter-regional bus service, combination general purpose/high-occupancy vehicle lanes, and passenger-rail service; and

WHEREAS, CDOT Region 4 initiated the North I-25 Environmental Study (EIS) in 2004 which represented the next step in evaluating and planning for improvements in this corridor and which was originally anticipated to be completed in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was available for public comment and review from October 31-December 30, 2008. The Final EIS document has gone through an internal review addressing these comments and the recommended preferred alternative has recently been identified; and

WHEREAS, the North I-25 communities have selected a preferred alternative which includes: **express/HOV/toll lanes** from SH 14 near Ft. Collins south to US 36 connecting with the existing HOV/Toll lanes into the Denver Union Station; **commuter rail** from CR 1 south on the BNSF railroad right-of-way to Longmont, then east along S.H. 119 to Weld Co. Road 7, then south to the newly purchased Union Pacific Railroad Boulder Branch by RTD through Erie/Dacono interchange on I-25, connecting to the North Metro FasTracks line in Thornton; and **express bus service** from Fort Collins to Denver International Airport and to the US 36/ I-270 junction; and

WHEREAS, the North I-25 EIS included environmental study of the **express/HOV/toll lanes from SH 14 south to US 36** connecting with the existing HOV/toll lanes into the Denver Union Station; and

WHEREAS, although the North I-25 EIS included environmental study to add one additional general purpose lane in both directions from SH 14 south to E-470 , there has been

no environmental study to add one additional general purpose lane in both directions from E-470 south to U.S. 36 (“gap”); and

WHEREAS, currently CDOT has **no plans to conduct the environmental study** of the gap and this study must be done prior DRCOG considering funding any improvements within the gap; and

WHEREAS, although the Denver Regional Council of Governments 2035 Regional Transportation Plan - Financially Constrained (“DRCOG RTP”) includes plans to add one general purpose lane in each direction from U.S. 36 north to Thornton Parkway, an environmental study would still need to be completed; and

WHEREAS, in addition to funding the environmental study of the gap, the DRCOG RTP would also need to be amended to extend the general purpose lanes in each direction from Thornton Parkway north to E-470 to provide continuity; and

WHEREAS, North Area Transportation Alliance (“NATA”) recognizes the importance of filling in this gap and urges CDOT to take all actions necessary to fund an environmental study of the “gap” between E-470 and US 36, and to extend the general purpose lanes from Thornton Parkway north to E-470 in the DRCOG RTP; and

WHEREAS, in addition to supporting efforts to address this gap, NATA wishes to reiterate its support of the widening of I-25 to provide additional laneage from SH 7 to US 36; and

WHEREAS, NATA wishes to express its support of the Preferred Alternative selected by the North I-25 communities to provide commuter rail, bus service and general purpose lanes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That NATA supports the Preferred Alternative selected by the North I-25 communities, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment 1.
2. That NATA urges CDOT to take all actions necessary to fund an environmental study of the “gap” and include funding for the extended general purpose lanes in the DRCOG 2040 RTP.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the North Area Transportation Alliance on September 23, 2009.

NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE


Erik Hansen, Chair

Recommended Preferred Alternative

LEGEND

- Tolled Express Lanes
- Express Bus
- Commuter Bus
- Commuter Rail
- Interchange Upgrades
- XIX Number of Lanes:
General Purpose/Tolled Express
- Express Bus Transit Station
- Commuter Bus Transit Station
- Commuter Rail Transit Station
- Commuter Rail Operational & Maintenance Facility
- Commuter Bus Operational & Maintenance Facility
- FasTracks Rail Line
- FasTracks / RTD Transit Station
- RTD Boundary

TRANSIT STATION LOCATIONS

Commuter Rail

- CR1 Fort Collins Downtown Transit Center - BNSF and Maple St.
- CR2 CSU - BNSF between University Ave. and W. Pitkin St.
- CR3 South Fort Collins Transit Center - US 287 and Harmony Rd.
- CR4 North Loveland - BNSF and 29th St.
- CR5 Downtown Loveland - BNSF and approximately 6th St.
- CR6 Berthoud - BNSF and SH 56
- CR7 North Longmont - BNSF and SH 66
- CR8 Longmont - Sugar Mill, north of alignment, south of Rogers Rd.
- CR9 Erie - I-25 and CR 8

Express Bus

- EB1 South Fort Collins Transit Center - US 287 and Harmony Rd.
- EB2 East Fort Collins - I-25 and Harmony Rd.
- EB3 Windsor - I-25 and SH 392
- EB4 Crossroads - Loveland between Crossroads Blvd. and US 34
- EB5 West Greeley - US 34 and SH 257
- EB6 Greeley - US 34 and 83rd Ave.
- EB7 Greeley Downtown Transfer Center - 8th Ave. and 8th St.
- EB8 Berthoud - I-25 and SH 56
- EB9 Firestone - I-25 and SH 119
- EB10 Frederick/Dacono - I-25 and SH 52
- EB11 Broomfield - I-25 and SH 7
- EB12 DIA

Commuter Bus

- CB1 Greeley - US 85 and D St.
- CB2 South Greeley - 8th Ave. and 24th St.
- CB3 Evans - US 85 and 42nd St.
- CB4 Platteville - US 85 and Grand Ave.
- CB5 Fort Lupton - US 85 and CR 14.5
- CB6 Brighton - US 85 and SH 7
- CB7 South Brighton - US 85 and E-470
- CB8 Commerce City - 69th and Colorado

