



Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

April 24, 2014

RE: Interstate 270 TIGER VI Grant Submittal

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA), I am writing to express our support for the Colorado Department of Transportation's TIGER grant application for the Interstate 270 (I-270) project. Your financial support will enable the state to complete project-level planning efforts for this important transportation corridor.

Every interstate highway in Colorado converges in Adams County, making it the transportation and distribution hub of the Front Range and state. I-270 is a vital commercial and commuter connection for the metro region. More than 80,000 travel the road daily, 14 percent of which are commercial vehicles. The seven-mile corridor is metro Denver's official hazmat route, allowing vehicles to bypass Denver proper. The interstate serves businesses within the energy, advanced manufacturing, logistics and distribution industry sectors – key economic drivers for the county, region and state.

Congestion currently extends the rush hour on I-270 by 30 minutes, contributing to environmental degradation and declining quality of life. Primarily located in the City of Commerce City and unincorporated Adams County, these negative affects greatly impact a severely distressed census tract, with a 54 percent benchmark median income, 26 percent poverty rate and 70 percent Latino population.

The planning grant will clearly identify how to address congestion, including the potential of managed lanes (connecting into the existing U.S. 36 and I-25 managed lanes as well as planned toll lanes on Interstate 70), regional bike trails and expanded shoulders. Approval of the TIGER application for I-270 will result in tangible projects to be quickly implemented, leveraging \$49.3 million identified in the region's fiscally-constrained transportation plan.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Erik Hansen, Chair of NATA
Adams County Commissioner