



April 4, 2014

Don Hunt
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 E. Arkansas
Denver, CO 80222

Re: NATA Request for CDOT to make I-270 its top TIGER VI planning grant
submittal

Dear Mr. Hunt,

It is our understanding CDOT has the opportunity to submit one additional TIGER VI application for planning grant funding. To that end, NATA respectfully requests CDOT consider submitting an application towards an Environmental Assessment for the I-270 corridor.

As you may be aware, I-270 is an important gateway for Adams County and Commerce City and a key discrete regional connection for the metro area. The corridor currently experiences high levels of congestion with DRCOG projections indicating the corridor will only further deteriorate by 2035. DRCOG's statistics also note that this 6.3-mile corridor is projected to experience significant population and employment growth by 2035, with a population increase of 72 percent, a 51 percent increase in employment, and a 126 percent increase in households. Travel demand is also anticipated to increase 64 percent by 2035.

Because of current and future congestion on I-270, staff members of NATA have discussed with your staff how to advance improvements on I-270, and have collaboratively determined the next logical phase is to environmentally clear the corridor through an Environmental Assessment (EA). NATA also believes the EA should include

an assessment of how any potential managed lanes on I-270 will connect with the managed lanes along U.S. 36 and I-25. I-270 is currently on the 2035 Metro Vision Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan (FC-RTP) and NATA will continue to support its retention in the 2040 Metro Vision FC-RTP.

Should CDOT decide to submit a TIGER planning grant for I-270, we would also hope you would consider designating it as the State's number 1 priority planning grant submittal.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Hansen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik Hansen, Chair
Adams County Commissioner

cc: CDOT Commission
Mike Cheroutes, HPTE
NATA Members
CDOT Region 1 Staff