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September 5, 2012

Mr. Reza Akhavan
Colorado Department of Transportation
2000 South Holly Street
Denver, CO 80222

RE: I-70 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preferred Alignment

Dear Mr. Akhavan:

As a member of the I-70 East EIS Intergovernmental Compliance Committee (ICCC) since 2003, the county has provided numerous comments to CDOT on the various alternatives proposed to improve transportation along I-70 from I-25 to Tower Road. This includes actively participating in the most recent Preferred Alternative Collaborative Team (PACT) process which we highly commend CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration for establishing to identify a preferred alignment.

Since our official letter submitted to CDOT in March 2009 on the Draft I-70 East Corridor EIS, the county has actively supported improvements remaining on the existing alignment. We believe the PACT reached a similar conclusion through its process ending July 2011 by screening out the I-270 alternatives. We are now hearing a proposed realignment option has surfaced where I-70 would be re-routed using I-76 and I-270, the majority of which traverses through Adams County. We have some concerns regarding this or any other realignment alternatives for I-70 for a variety of reasons including:

- From an incident response perspective, it is crucial that I-70, I-76 and I-270 remain separate, regional routes. A major incident on one of these freeways may require the other to be used to re-route traffic to mitigate for congestion delays. Even more crucial is a scenario where an evacuation of the metro area is required. Eliminating a key east-west freeway through the metro area would undoubtedly increase the time it would take to evacuate the metro area.
- I-270 is an important connection through Commerce City. The city's economic development plans center around logistics and advanced manufacturing industries that rely on I-270 to provide easy and direct access to national and regional roadways. Realigning I-70 to I-270 would significantly alter the city's economic plans for this area.

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We also understand CDOT recently proposed an option for the Swansea and Elyria communities where the viaduct would be removed and I-70 would be reconstructed below ground and partially covered to provide additional open space and community uses. We hear the communities are supportive of this option and the county would like to echo its support for this proposal moving forward.

We want to congratulate CDOT on developing a workable solution the communities can support while finding ways to improve I-70 on the existing alignment. We look forward to the State reaching a Record of Decision on the I-70 East Final EIS in the near future.

Sincerely,



W.R. "Skip" Fischer
Chairman



Alice J. Nichol

Erik Hansen

cc:

CDOT Commissioner Heather Barry
The Honorable Michael Hancock, Mayor of the City and County of Denver
Kirk Webb, I-70 East EIS Project Manager, CDOT
Jeanne M. Shreve, Adams County Transportation Coordinator