

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 14-0247

### Concerning the reconstruction of Interstate 70 through Northeast Denver

**WHEREAS**, while the Globeville Elyria and Swansea communities are already endowed with a vital constellation of unique community assets, from recreation facilities such as Swansea Park, Argo Pool, and the Colorado Miners Recreation Center; to resource providers such as Clínica Tepeyac, Focus Points Family Resource Center, and Valdez-Perry Library; to community gathering spots such as The Growhaus, and Globeville Community Center, the reconstruction of I-70 has the potential to better connect local families and children to these assets and better leverage the important resources already available within the community for its residents to build upon and improve their own quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the vital function of the I-70 corridor to continue to serve nearly 700 local businesses, including many large freight distribution centers and other freight-dependent enterprises, maintaining direct and convenient highway access to the National Western Complex, which is vital to the long-term success of the National Western Stock Show, and providing safe and swift vehicle passage between downtown Denver and Denver International Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, Council supports the City team's design vision and detailed planning which focuses on neighborhoods, safety, environmental impacts, and regional connectivity; this project is also part of the "Corridor of Opportunity" and a critical component of the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative; which will help to promote facilitation of economic development and employment opportunities that would lead to a higher quality of life for the families, children, and businesses in this entire corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, these concerns are supported by many adopted City goals and neighborhood plans including the revitalization of specific neighborhoods with the understanding that it is important to facilitate moving people through various means of transportation rather than just vehicles; and reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions through appropriate environmental standards; and

**Whereas**, In 1954, I-70 was designed through the neighborhoods of Globeville Elyria and Swansea (GES), having a devastating impact on the neighborhoods from the loss of homes and residents, the loss of sustainable resources and access to resources within a community, and the overall loss of value of homes; and

**Whereas**, Federal policy says that if a program will have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on minority or low-income populations—that program may only be carried out if further mitigation measures or alternatives avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse impacts. Some of the adverse effects on the minority and low-income residents in GES should be mitigated and include:

- Air quality, fumes and emissions, noise, traffic counts;
- Displacement of residents and loss of overall housing and residents to the community;
- Connectivity and Quality of Place; and
- Jobs and Education for residents to rebuild the community; and

**Whereas**, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) should work closely with Denver Environmental Health to proactively monitor air quality associated with the new design and deploy assertive technologies to mitigate impacts; and

**Whereas**, all parties should work together to identify land and resources to replace housing lost to the project within the neighborhoods, at similarly attainable prices, to ensure residents of low and moderate incomes can continue to live near the new amenities far into the future; and

**Whereas**, the City and County of Denver in partnership with CDOT, continue to explore additional optimization to enhance connectivity; strengthen existing neighborhood historical fabric, context and culture; improve quality of life and environment; support the economic vitality of the area and balance the overall regional transportation needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER THAT:**

**Section 1.** That Denver City Council acknowledges the generations of Globeville Elyria and Swansea residents who have endured the daily disadvantages imposed by living in the shadow of the elevated I-70 Viaduct, and supports furthering the work of the many stakeholders and residents and business owners who have been diligently collaborating for several years to determine the best possible design of the now-deteriorating 50 year-old transportation facility.

**Section 2.** The Denver City Council supports the reconstruction of I-70 in its current location and alignment, and places the new structure below grade between Brighton Boulevard and Colorado Boulevard. This alternative, also known as the Partially Covered Lowered (PCL), will replace the viaduct with a lowered highway and will provide enhanced multimodal connectivity and strengthen the existing Globeville Elyria and Swansea communities through a partial cover over the highway.

**Section 3.** That Denver City Council encourages Colorado Department of Transportation and the City and County of Denver to continue working together toward the best possible modifications to enhance the connectivity across I-70 and to restore critical connections between Globeville Elyria and Swansea neighborhoods, and to all areas of the City, so as to provide mobility relationships for all City residents and businesses, thereby creating a new sense of place and community that has been long represented by the City's Northeast neighbors.

**Section 4.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be sent to Don Hunt, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation.

**PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 7, 2014**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT