

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for the Downtown Westminster Smart City Mobility Initiative in Westminster, Colorado. As the regional planning commission per Colorado state statute, DRCOG prepares the plan for the physical development of the region. For nearly two decades this plan has been known as Metro Vision. The proposed project supports the Metro Vision adopted by the DRCOG Board of Directors in January of 2017. The success of this visionary plan requires the coordinated efforts of local, state and federal governments. Westminster brings forward a proposed project which has the policy and financial support of the Colorado Department of Transportation, and can be realized with the approval of funding from USDOT.

Westminster's TIGER application proposes to construct a grade separation of the 18 mile long US 36 Bikeway which was constructed as part of the nationally recognized US 36 Express Lanes Project. The bikeway carried more than 175,000 riders in its first year. The underpass will do much more than facilitate cycling. It will improve safety by eliminating the need for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross fourteen lanes of traffic across Sheridan Boulevard and 88th Avenue to access one of the Denver Regional Transportation District's busiest Park-n-rides.

The Westminster Smart City Mobility Initiative directly supports many of the desired outcomes of the Metro Vision Plan including connecting urban centers and multimodal corridors in the region to accommodate a growing share of the region's housing and employment in Downtown Westminster, providing connections to the regional transportation system which are safe, reliable and well-maintained, lowering greenhouse emissions and connecting people to parks and trails.

DRCOG encourages funding the regionally significant multimodal infrastructure proposed by the City of Westminster.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Rex
Acting Executive Director