



November 15, 2021

Board of Directors
High Performance Transportation Enterprise
Nick Farber, Executive Director
2829 W. Howard Place
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Chair Bowes, HPTE Board and Mr. Farber -

The Fix North I-25 Business Alliance, working in partnership with the North I-25 Coalition, have been strong and supportive allies with CDOT in delivering funding to the North I-25 corridor. We are proud and greatly appreciative of the nearly \$1 Billion in investment made in Segments 6, 7 and 8 of the \$1.6 billion I-25 corridor to deliver expanded capacity through a managed North I-25 Express Lane. Local communities stepped up to partner in the funding by providing invaluable matching funds to demonstrate their commitment to the region and the importance of the corridor to our citizens quality of life, health, and economic health.

But we aren't done. Full funding of the corridor is nearly \$660M+ short of the necessary funds to complete segments 4 and 5 and an additional \$200M short of bringing the Express Lane safely through the entire stretch of North I-25 from Denver to Fort Collins.

Left unfunded, the resulting flow of traffic will be impeded, safety will be compromised, and air quality will be impacted from heightened emissions from congestion.

The spine of Colorado's Front Range, the essential freight corridor linking interstate commerce, and a critical national defense asset, the multi-modal corridor substantially serves as the economic connector of Colorado's fastest growing region - northern Colorado.

The Fix North I-25 Business Alliance strongly and urgently asks the HPTE and the Colorado Transportation Commission to fully pursue all available options to fund to North I-25 Express Lanes Project to full completion. Tremendous progress has been made thus far. We can't stop now.

10 Year Project List - State Allocation

State level funding emerging from the passage of SB 260, state stimulus funds, early federal stimulus funds and the fourth tranche of the SB 19-267 COPs presents the most immediate opportunity to return the North I-25 corridor back to a position of priority on Colorado's funding allocation stage. The northern Colorado region will be fully engaged in the formation of the 10 Year Project List and urge the completion of the critical project that was set in motion 5 years ago on the list.

Federal Infrastructure Bill

The historic passage and signing of the \$1 Trillion Federal Infrastructure Bill sets the stage for a similarly historic investment in Colorado's federal interstate system. Interstate 25 is one of only three nationally

strategic transportation interstate corridors in Colorado that carries 27 percent of the state's vehicle travel. We urge the Colorado Transportation Commission to prioritize the Colorado allocation of one-time additional federal funds to our state's interstate system, including fully funding and completing the critical expansion of the federally overseen interstate roadway, the North I-25 Express Lanes Project.

Such commitment will assure the health and safety of the thousands of Coloradoans, interstate travelers and freight haulers while addressing the important air quality concerns caused by unnecessary congestion along the miles of two-lane interstate.

Public Private Partnership

Absent a commitment to direct state level funding and/or a significant portion of the incoming federal funds towards completion of the north I-25 corridor, HPTE's Unsolicited Proposal Policy provides a very viable funding approach to assess available and willing partners with CDOT to deliver and complete the North I-25 Express Lanes project. We strongly support full pursuit of a P3 option and urge HPTE to move into Phase Two of its full and fair review and evaluation of the pending I-25Now conceptual project proposal. By advancing the I-25Now Proposal, forward progress in the evaluation will move the north I-25 Express Lanes project towards a procurement process and the receipt of viable proposals from private partners.

A P3 option should not be overlooked, nor the process cut short ahead of a full understanding of available, willing and financially secure private partners eager to deliver a complete North I-25 Express Lane. Furthermore, any answer other than the forward progress of a P3 option should come with a solution for the full funding of the North I-25 Express Lane project.

Again, we are beyond grateful for the investments that have been made into the unique multi-modal North I-25 Corridor. Tremendous progress has been made. Let's finish the job!

Sincerely, on behalf of the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance,

Ann Hutchison, President/CEO, Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce

Mindy McCloughan, President/CEO, Loveland Chamber of Commerce

Jaime Henning, President/CEO, Greeley Chamber of Commerce

Rich Werner, President/CEO, Upstate Colorado

Sandra Hagen Solin, Executive Director, Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance

Cc: Lisa Kauffman, Chief of Staff, Governor Jared Polis
Shoshana Lew, CDOT Executive Director
Kathleen Bracke, Transportation Commissioner
Karen Stuart, Transportation Commissioner and HPTE Board Member
Eula Adams, Transportation Commissioner and HPTE Board Member
Don Stanton, Transportation Commissioner and HPTE Board Member

About the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance

The region's business community founded the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance in early 2014 after being informed the two-lane North I-25 corridor wouldn't be expanded until 2075. The Alliance is a project of the

Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance, the joint advocacy arm of the Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley Chambers of Commerce with Upstate Colorado and One NoCo Economic Development. It has invested significant financial resources in the unified North I-25 effort and the statewide funding conversation to advocate for more transportation funding for Colorado and North I-25.