

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 29, 2012

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write to express our strong support for the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) letter of interest and forthcoming application for credit assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. This loan will help CDOT's High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) and other stakeholders along the U.S. 36 corridor complete Phase 2 of the U.S. 36 Express Lanes project (hereinafter, "Express Lanes project").

In its totality, the Express Lanes project includes 18 miles of proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, the U.S. 36 bikeway, and a new managed lane in both directions of the highway. The project will connect Denver's Union Station to Boulder, passing through Westminster, Broomfield, Superior, and Louisville. BRT will service six existing stations along U.S. 36 corridor, which is already home to numerous high-tech, energy, financial, and telecommunications companies among others. The population of these fast-growing communities is expected to soar to over 600,000 people by 2030.

More specifically, Phase 2 of this project consists of extending the express lanes the final eight miles from Interlocken Loop in Broomfield to Table Mesa in Boulder. The goal of the HPTE is to seek the maximum amount of federal resources through TIFIA, not only to complete Phase 2 but to complete it concurrently with Phase 1, enabling the entire corridor to be open to users by the year 2015.

We are appreciative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's support for Phase 1 of this project with its award of a \$10 million TIGER grant and a \$54 million TIFIA loan. This federal assistance was used to advocate for additional state and regional funding to yield a total of \$310.9 million for the U.S. 36 Express Lanes project. HPTE and the Colorado Department of Transportation expect to be able to use future TIFIA assistance to attract the necessary resources to finish this project.

These infrastructure improvements are a necessity to prepare for the continued growth of this region. We strongly support HPTE's application for a TIFIA loan and thank you again for your past support of this important project. We ask that you give the application submitted by the Colorado Department of Transportation every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your attention, and please notify our offices of any funds awarded.

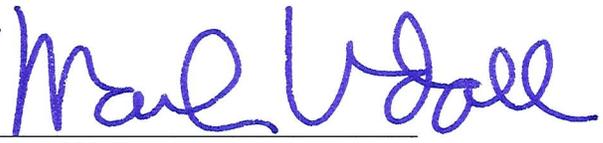
Sincerely,



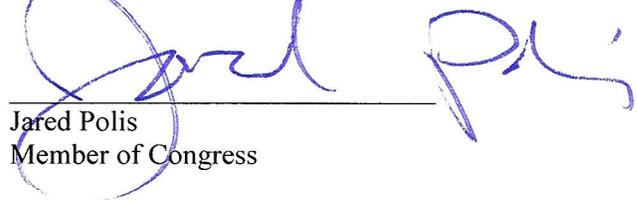
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Mark Udall
United States Senator



Jared Polis
Member of Congress