



Executive Committee

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Jeff Baker, Vice Chair
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Richard Kondo, Treasurer
Steve Conklin, Immediate Past Chair
Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
2 Constitution Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Russell Senate Office Building
2 Constitution Avenue NE
Suite SR-374
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Crow
1323 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, and Representative Crow,

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) respectfully submits this letter of support for the City of Aurora's request for Congressionally Directed Spending for the Box Elder Creek Roadway Improvement project.

The City seeks funding to reconstruct flood-damaged 56th Avenue and Hudson Road, and to implement additional design and construction features to mitigate against future flood risks such as high storm water run-off and substantially increased creek flows. We believe the project is necessary for the rapid recovery of these key arterial roads and their continued operation through future severe weather events.

56th Avenue and Hudson Road washed out during a heavy rain fall event in June 2023 when Box Elder Creek jumped its banks and overwhelmed existing drainage infrastructure. Miles of closures due to flood damage have restricted access to critical facilities in the region, including Denver International Airport (DEN), Colorado Air and Space Port, and a variety of logistics and distribution companies. Lengthy detours have had, and will continue to produce, significant negative economic impacts and further burden essential workers from accessing their employment sites.

An increase in severe storms in the Aurora area has placed transportation infrastructure at risk, particularly in the floodplain along Box Elder Creek. The proposed roadway reconstruction and storm proofing improvements will significantly reduce the risk of flood damage due to future flooding events. Implementation of this project will improve the resiliency of critical transportation infrastructure in the region, maintaining efficient, safe, and reliable movement of freight and people through severe storms.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request from the City of Aurora. Please feel free to contact me at rpapsdorf@drcog.org if you have any questions or need further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Papsdorf". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ron Papsdorf
Director
Transportation Planning & Operations





Mayor
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March 22, 2024

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, and Congressman Crow,

On behalf of the City of Aurora, we are writing to express our strong support for the City of Aurora's Congressionally Directed Spending Request for the Box Elder Creek Roadway Improvement project. The City's application seeks funding to reconstruct flood-damaged 56th Avenue and Hudson Road, and to implement additional design and construction features to mitigate anticipated future flood risks. We believe the project is necessary for the rapid recovery of these key arterial roads and their continued operation through future severe weather events.

An increase in severe storms in the Aurora area has placed transportation infrastructure at risk, particularly in the floodplain along Box Elder Creek. 56th Avenue and Hudson Road washed out during a heavy rain fall event in June 2023 when Box Elder Creek jumped its banks and overwhelmed existing drainage infrastructure. Miles of closures due to flood damage have restricted access to critical facilities in the region, including Denver International Airport (DEN), Colorado Air and Space Port, and a variety of logistics and distribution companies. Lengthy detours have had and will continue to produce significant negative economic impacts and further burden essential workers from accessing their employment sites.

Implementation of this project will improve the resiliency of critical transportation infrastructure in the region, maintaining efficient, safe, and reliable movement of freight and people through severe storms. We strongly urge you to include this funding request as it is extremely significant to the community, and we ask you to support the City of Aurora's funding request for this important project.

Mike Coffman
Mayor

Dustin Zvonek
Mayor Pro Tem

Francoise Bergan
Council Member

Alison Coombs
Council Member

Steve Sundberg
Council Member

Ruben Medina
Council Member

Stephanie Hancock
Council Member

Crystal Murillo
Council Member

Danielle Jurinsky
Council Member

Angela Lawson
Council Member

Curtis Gardner
Council Member



March 27, 2024

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, and Congressman Crow:

On behalf of Denver International Airport, I am writing to express our support for the City of Aurora's Congressionally Directed Spending Request for the Box Elder Creek Roadway Improvement project.

The City of Aurora's application seeks funding to reconstruct flood-damaged 56th Avenue and Hudson Road, and to implement additional design and construction features to mitigate anticipated future flood risks such as high storm water run-off and substantially increased creek flows. We believe the project is necessary for the rapid recovery of these key arterial roads and their continued operation through future severe weather events.

An increase in severe storms in the Aurora area has placed transportation infrastructure at risk, particularly in the floodplain along Box Elder Creek. 56th Avenue and Hudson Road washed out during a heavy rain fall event in June 2023 when Box Elder Creek jumped its banks and overwhelmed existing drainage infrastructure. Miles of closures due to flood damage have restricted access to critical facilities in the region, including Denver International Airport, Colorado Air and Space Port, and a variety of logistics and distribution companies. Lengthy detours have had and will continue to produce significant negative economic impacts and further burden essential workers from accessing their employment sites.

The proposed roadway reconstruction and storm proofing improvements will significantly reduce the risk of flood damage due to future flooding events. Implementation of this project will improve the resiliency of critical transportation infrastructure in the region, maintaining efficient, safe, and reliable movement of freight and people through severe storms.

The Denver International Airport strongly urges you to include this funding request as it is extremely significant to the community, and we ask you to support the City of Aurora's funding request for this important project.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. Washington

Denver International Airport, CEO