



April 7, 2022

Members of the General Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
200 E. Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Opposition of Senate Bill 22-176**

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

The Adams County Board of Commissioners is writing to express concerns with Senate Bill 22-176, "Early Stage Front Range Passenger Rail Corridor Development." While the county supports efforts to improve transit and rail options for Colorado residents, this bill serves primarily to fund an undefined environmental study of Burnham Yard. Our concerns are as follows:

- SB22-176 is primarily funding an environmental assessment of the Burnham Yard (\$6.5M) with no clear definition of the components and anticipated outcomes of the work.
- The bill allocates \$2.4M of the funding for use by the Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPR), and it is not clear in the bill how the FRPR District will expend these monies.
- As currently drafted, the bill calls for the use of transportation funding for an environmental assessment on a large property where most of the benefit will be realized in non-transportation-related purposes.
- Funding an environmental assessment of Burnham Yard at this early stage pre-determines that FRPR District will travel through Burnham Yard. This automatically eliminates routes through other travel sheds, including along the existing E-470 right-of-way.
- The newly formed FRPR District has not yet convened to begin its work to fully engage stakeholders over a variety of issues, including the ultimate route for the rail line.

For these reasons, Adams County is opposed to SB22-176 and respectfully requests a no vote on the bill.

Respectfully,

Lynn Baca  
Adams County Board of Commissioners, Chair

CC: Adams County Board of Commissioners  
Alisha Reis, Interim County Manager

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