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April 27, 2016

The Honorable Randy Baumgardner, Chairman
Colorado State Senate Transportation Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Letter of support for Regional Transportation Development Projects – SB16-194

Dear Chairman Baumgardner and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

The Adams County Commissioners are respectfully requesting the passage of SB16-194. The purpose of this legislation is to help local governments take a leadership role in completing state transportation and transit projects that have not been completed due to a lack of state and/or local funding.

Under this legislation, local governments that can make a showing that commercial areas around a state highway or regional-transit system are languishing due the inadequacy of the nearby transportation system can apply to the State (CDOT) to keep a portion of the increased sales tax revenue generated within the commercial area to help fund those transportation improvements.

The elements of the legislation reinforce our existing philosophy that working collaboratively with our neighbors facilitates infrastructure compatibility and promotes a coordinated implementation strategy for regional improvements. As the funds for transportation continue to decrease at the state, federal, and local levels, while the population increases, particularly up north, we must seek additional funding solutions. SB16-194 advocates for communities to create a powerful, collaborative voice to advance strategic transportation priorities. With sustained focus and well planned regional footprints we can capitalize on our long-standing partnerships to solve mobility issues in a way that that is sustainable and adaptable to the communities seeking to utilize the SB16-194 tool.

Mobility problems don't take care of themselves — a strong business perspective, focus, and leadership is required to ensure we have an effective regional transportation system that can attract talent, expand our economy, and sustain our quality of life, both now and as we grow. We believe that there is an inherent relationship between the quantity and quality of transportation infrastructure and economic development. High density transportation infrastructure and highly connected networks are commonly associated with economic and social opportunities and

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benefits that result in positive multiplier effects such as better accessibility to markets, employment and additional investments.

The Governor's Office of Budget and Finance (OSPB) in their recent March 2016 forecast reiterated the critical contribution to the state's economy, "The northern front range, which accounts for nearly three -quarters of Colorado's economy, continues to bolster overall indicators for the state. The region remains a center for innovation and entrepreneurship, population growth, a highly skilled workforce, and diverse industries producing higher valued products that are in demand in today's economy."

Please allow Colorado communities one additional tool in the tool belt and support SB16-194.

Respectfully,



Steven O'Dorisio
Chair

cc: Senator Ray Scott, Vice Chairman
Senator John Cooke
Senator Leroy Garcia
Senator Nancy Todd
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