

Resolution #TC2021-06-10
RAISE Grant Project Approval

Authorizing Department Staff to submit U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant applications.

Approved by the Transportation Commission on June 17, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Consolidates Appropriations Act, 2021 appropriated \$1 billion to be awarded by the USDOT on a competitive basis for capital investments in surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact. (Pub. L. 116-260, December 27, 2020); and

WHEREAS, the USDOT released a 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the \$1.00 billion RAISE program in FY 2021; and

WHEREAS, applications for the FY 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program are due to the USDOT by 5:00 PM E.S.T on July 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, highway, bridge, or other road projects; public transportation projects; passenger and freight rail transportation projects; port infrastructure investments; intermodal projects; and projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land are eligible for the FY 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the USDOT's evaluation of FY 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program applications will be based on primary selection criteria: safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, CDOT performed an evaluation of potential projects for the Department to submit under a unified grant application and identified three projects that will be submitted for consideration based on the key program objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Transportation Commission allocated potential Senate Bill (SB) 17-267 funding to various projects in November 2019; and

WHEREAS, the department asked staff to submit grant proposals that required no excess matching funds allocated by the Transportation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission is authorized pursuant to Policy Directive 703.0 to approve grant application proposals if new matching funds are required; and

WHEREAS, department staff has submitted two tentative projects to the Transportation Commission for endorsement, including 1) Multimodal Options for a Vibrant, Equitable (MOVE) Western Slope; and 2) Amtrak Southwest Chief - La Junta Route Restoration Program.

WHEREAS, department staff has requested \$1.0 million in extra Commission funding derived from SB 17-267 in order to increase project scope and competitiveness of the Amtrak Southwest Chief - La Junta Route Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, the department is able to accelerate work on the Amtrak Southwest Chief - La Junta Route Restoration Program if this federal grant is received; and

WHEREAS, once approved, CDOT will work with regions and planning partners to create grant applications for RAISE to submit by the federal deadline of July 12, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Commission pledges to allocate \$1.0 million for the Amtrak Southwest Chief - La Junta Route Restoration Program project should the grant be successful, and adopts the RAISE project list submitted by CDOT staff, with applications to be completed as detailed in the USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Herman F. Stockinger III

Herman Stockinger, Secretary
Transportation Commission of Colorado

6/17/2021

Date