

## **Resolution #TC\_2024-03-07**

1601 Interchange Approval at I-76 and WCR 8

**Approved by the Transportation Commission on March 21, 2024.**

**Whereas**, in April 2021 the Transportation Commission approved revisions to Policy Directive 1601 concerning the state highway interchange approval process; and

**Whereas**, the County of Weld and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation (BNSF) has completed a System Level Study (SLS) for a proposed new interchange at I-76 and WCR8; and

**Whereas**, in accordance with the Policy Directive 1601, the staff of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has reviewed the Systems Level Study and found it to be consistent with the Policy Directive 1601; and

**Whereas**, in accordance with the Policy Directive 1601, the Systems Level Study documents the need for the proposed Interchange at I-76 and WCR 8 to accommodate anticipated travel volumes at acceptable levels of service for the next 20 years; and

**Whereas**, the cost to construct the proposed Interchange is estimated to be \$144 - \$216 million in 2024 dollars; and

**Whereas**, the BNSF, Weld County, Hudson, Lochbuie, Logistics Park Developer, and potential Federal Grants is funding 100 percent of the design, NEPA and construction of the Interchange at I-76 and WCR 8 and is requesting no financial support or in-kind assistance from CDOT for these efforts; and

**Whereas**, all costs and responsibilities associated with project maintenance and operations shall be determined through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Weld County and CDOT consistent with the financial plan in this Systems Level Study; and

**Whereas**, approval of the Final Maintenance and Operations IGA by the Chief Engineer consistent with the financial plan included in the Systems Level Study is necessary prior to construction; and

**Whereas**, in accordance with the Policy Directive 1601, Weld County was an active participant in the System Level Study and is in agreement with the proposed project and financial plan as described in the System Level Study; and

**Whereas**, Transportation Commission approval of the Systems Level Study is contingent upon CDOT (and FHWA on the Interstate System) approval of NEPA and the IAR; and

**Whereas**, the Transportation Commission recognizes that this approval is not the final approval step, and recognizes that, should the environmental document identify a preferred alternative different from that identified in the Systems Level Study, the Transportation Commission will reconsider the Systems Level Study; and

**Whereas**, approval of a proposed project by the Transportation Commission will allow Weld County to submit a plan amendment to Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) fiscally constrained 2045 Regional Transportation Plan; and

**Whereas**, the applicant must demonstrate significant progress towards implementation of the project within 3 years of the date of approval of this resolution.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved,**

The Transportation Commission approves the Systems Level Study for the Interchange Improvements at (project location) pending:

1. Inclusion of the proposed interchange in the fiscally constrained regional transportation plan and state transportation improvement program; and
2. Completion and approval of the appropriate environmental decision document consistent with the CDOT Environmental Stewardship Guide; and
3. Approval of applicable interchange access, design, Transportation Demand Management strategies and environmental permitting documents by the appropriate agencies; and
4. Approval by the Chief Engineer of an IGA for the financing, construction, maintenance and operations of the facilities associated with the construction of the Interchange consistent with the Systems Level Study.
5. Approval by the Chief Engineer of an IGA for the proposed and ongoing TDM measures relative to the 1601 policy and 1% ADT reduction requirements as outlined in the “good faith effort” proposed in the TDM plan for approval.

The Chief Engineer is authorized to enter into an IGA with the applicant for the construction, maintenance and operations of the facilities associated with the construction, operations and maintenance of the Interchange at I-76 and WCR 8 and with Weld County consistent with this System Level Study.



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Herman Stockinger, Secretary  
Transportation Commission of Colorado