

**Resolution #TC-16-1-8**

Approving an Intra-Agency Agreement between the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Colorado High Performance Transportation Enterprise for the I-25 North Express Lanes Project (Segment 3)

**Approved by the Transportation Commission on January 21, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 43-1-106(8), C.R.S, the Transportation Commission is responsible for formulating the general policy with respect to the management, construction, and maintenance of public highways and other transportation systems in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Commission promulgates and adopts all budgets for the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) and state transportation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly created the Colorado High Performance Transportation Enterprise (“HPTE”), pursuant to Section 43-4-806, C.R.S., as a government-owned business within CDOT to pursue innovative means of more efficiently financing important surface transportation projects that will improve the safety, capacity, and accessibility of the surface transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, HPTE is authorized, pursuant to Section 43-4-806(2)(c)(I), C.R.S., to impose user fees on the travelling public for the privilege of using surface transportation infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, CDOT, in partnership with HPTE, is undertaking the I-25 North Express Lanes Project (Segment 3) (the “Segment 3 Project”) to complete, implement and operate one new tolled express lane in each direction between approximately 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E-470; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Commission supports the Segment 3 Project and recognizes the benefits it provides to the State, which include, but are not limited to, improving travel times, managing congestion in the I-25 North Corridor, and providing travelers with a choice of a new travel lane; and

**WHEREAS**, HPTE will enter into a loan agreement with Bank of America, N.A. (the “Segment 3 Loan Agreement”) pursuant to which HPTE will borrow money to fund the payment of the lawful expenses and costs of planning, designing, engineering, acquisition, installation or construction of the Segment 3 Project and other lawful expenses and costs related thereto (“Segment 3 Loan”); and

**WHEREAS**, in connection with the Segment 3 Loan, HPTE will pledge to Bank of America, N.A. the user-fee revenues collected by HPTE from the Segment 3 Project as further detailed in the Segment 3 Loan Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 43-4-806(4), C.R.S., the Transportation Commission may authorize the transfer of money from the state highway fund to HPTE to defray expenses of HPTE; and

**WHEREAS**, together with HPTE's approval of the Segment 3 Loan Agreement, HPTE has requested that CDOT enter into that certain I-25 North Express Lanes Project (Segment 3) Intra-Agency Agreement with HPTE (the "Segment 3 Intra-Agency Agreement") pursuant to which HPTE can request, and the Transportation Commission will agree to consider making, but is not obligated to make, one or more loans from the state highway fund to satisfy any of HPTE's payment obligations under the Segment 3 Loan Agreement, or to fund HPTE O&M Project Expenses (as such term is defined in the Segment 3 Intra-Agency Agreement), in the event user fee revenues are insufficient, or projected to be insufficient, to satisfy HPTE's obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, any loan that CDOT provides HPTE under the Segment 3 Intra-Agency Agreement shall, notwithstanding any state fiscal rule or generally accepted accounting principle that could otherwise be interpreted to require a contrary conclusion, constitute a loan from the Transportation Commission to HPTE and shall not be considered a grant for purposes of Section 20(2)(d) of Article X of the state Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Commission recognizes and respects the legal principle that it cannot bind future Transportation Commissions with respect to budgetary and policy decisions, recognizes it cannot agree, in advance, to allocate and transfer state highway funds for a loan to HPTE, and agrees that any decision as to whether or not to allocate and transfer such funds for such purposes shall be made by the Transportation Commission, in its sole discretion, in the year in which the HPTE request occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, in the event the Transportation Commission elects, in its sole and absolute discretion, to make a loan to HPTE to satisfy any of the payment obligations under the Segment 3 Loan Agreement, CDOT can, but is not required to, fund such a loan using Federal-aid highway funds to assist HPTE in fulfilling its payment obligations under the Segment 3 Loan Agreement, but CDOT may not use Federal-aid highway funds to satisfy any HPTE O&M Project Expenses of the Segment 3 Project.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Transportation Commission hereby approves and authorizes CDOT to enter into the Segment 3 Intra-Agency Agreement with HPTE in substantially the form presented to the Transportation Commission and authorizes the CDOT Executive Director or his delegee to execute the Segment 3 Intra-Agency Agreement with such changes therein and additions thereto, not inconsistent with this Resolution, as are approved by the CDOT Executive Director or his delegee (whose signature thereon shall constitute conclusive evidence of such approval).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Transportation Commission hereby approves and authorizes the Segment 3 Loan Agreement in substantially the form approved by the HPTE Board of Directors and appended to the Segment 3 Intra-Agency Agreement, with such changes therein and additions thereto, not inconsistent with this Resolution, as are approved by the CDOT Executive Director or his delegee, which changes can include an increase or decrease in (i) the initial interest rate charged for the Segment 3 Loan so long as the initial interest rate for the Segment 3 Loan does not exceed 3%, provided that such rate may increase under certain circumstance as provided in the Segment 3 Loan Agreement; and (ii) the principal amount of the Segment 3 Loan so long as such principal amount does not exceed \$35 million.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Transportation Commission hereby authorizes the CDOT Executive Director, the CDOT Chief Financial Officer, or any other officer of CDOT to execute and deliver such certificates and other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or convenient to the accomplishment of the purposes of this Resolution, including, without limitation, the delivery of closing certificates and other documents required to be delivered by CDOT, if any, under the provisions of the Segment 3 Loan Agreement.

*Herman F. Stockinger ##*

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Herman Stockinger, Secretary  
Transportation Commission of Colorado

*1-26-16*

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Date

