

Transportation Commission Resolution #20241206

Support and approval of CDOT purchase of Burnham Lead Easement

Approved by the Transportation Commission on December 18, 2024

Whereas, on May 19, 2021, CTIO entered into a purchase and sale agreement with UPRR to effectuate the purchase of Burnham Yard with the intention of exploring proposed projects including improvements to I-25, relocation of the CML, implementation of Front Range Passenger Rail, future expansion of the Regional Transportation District (“RTD”) light rail lines and other related mobility and transit improvements which were expected to benefit the public interest by improving the safety, capacity and accessibility of the surface transportation system and allowing more efficient movement of people and goods throughout Colorado; and

Whereas, as the redevelopment of Burnham Yard progressed, CTIO engaged in due diligence pursuant to C.R.S. §24-30-104 to determine how the redevelopment could support transit-oriented development, including an exhaustive track alignment study, an environmental study, and decisions to avoid expanding I-25 in favor of more multi-modal transit options; and

Whereas, through this due diligence CTIO determined the expansion of I-25 and relocation of the CML were no longer necessary; however, additional acquisitions could be made to better serve the public’s safety and transportation needs; and

Whereas, CTIO determined UPRR continued to own an easement on a redundant rail line on Burnham Yard (“Burnham Lead Line”), which UPRR minimally used to run freight trains and the Burnham Lead Line caused three at-grade crossings within the City’s urban core and further prevented expansion of RTD’s light rail.

Whereas, the State has negotiated with Union Pacific to purchase the Burnham Lead Line easement for \$19,400,000 for the purposes of improving rail safety and preserving transit capacity to expand on in the future.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, after review and consideration, the Transportation Commission supports and approves the purchase of the easement on the Burnham Lead Line at the negotiated price of \$19,400,000.

Herman F. Stockinger A A A

Herman Stockinger, Secretary

Transportation Commission of Colorado