



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** BRIDGE ENTERPRISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** JEFF SUDMEIER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**DATE:** MARCH 18, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BRIDGE ENTERPRISE FUNDING MATCH FOR THE  
 FY 2021 INFRASTRUCTURE FOR REBUILDING AMERICA (INFRA) GRANT PROGRAM

**Purpose:**

The Colorado Bridge Enterprise Board of Directors (Board) is being asked to approve the attached resolution that commits Colorado Bridge Enterprise (CBE) funding for six BE eligible bridges as part of the state funding match for the I-270 Corridor Safety and Mobility Project being submitted for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 INFRA Discretionary Grant Program.

**Background:**

On February 17, 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2021 INFRA Discretionary Grant Program. CDOT Staff performed an evaluation to identify projects with the highest probability of award based on the selection criteria outlined in the NOFO. Through this process, the I-270 Corridor Safety and Mobility Project was identified as a top candidate for submission.

**Details:**

The I-270 Corridor Safety and Mobility Project improves safety and mobility on the seven-mile corridor by reducing the rate of vehicle crashes, improving travel time reliability, reducing delays, and updating obsolete and deficient bridges and highway infrastructure. Many of these safety findings are related to traffic congestion, speed differentials, and geometric features, such as short weaving distances, short ramp merge areas, narrow shoulders, and tight loop ramps. A total of 1,584 crashes occurred from 2014 to 2018 along the I-270 mainline, including six fatal crashes and 369 injury crashes.

The project includes the replacement of six CBE eligible bridges. The funding addresses five top tier structures and one third tier structure from the January 2021 CBE Prioritization Plan as outlined in the table below.

Structure ID	Description	Deck Area (sq. ft.)	BE Prioritization Tier
E-17-AT	SH 6 over Sand Creek	44,186	1st
E-17-ID	I-270 WB over S. Platte River	12,518	1st
E-17-IE	I-270 EB over S. Platte River	12,518	1st
E-17-IF	I-270 WB over Ditch Rd., Burlington Canal	8,869	1st
E-17-IH	I-270 WB over SH 265, UP RR, BNSF RR	14,951	1st
E-17-IC	York St. over I-270	17,390	3rd
Total		110,432	

Addressing these structures as part of the I-270 Corridor Safety and Mobility Project provides a shared benefit to both CBE and CDOT and this approach increases the probability of a grant award by increasing the percentage of the state funding match, diversifying the proposed project funding sources, and establishing partnerships with a broader range of stakeholders.

Additionally, the proposed structures are primarily located within a designated Colorado Opportunity Zone. The Opportunity Zone Program is a federally recognized program that encourages long-term investments to spur new development and revitalization in designated low-income communities and economically distressed areas.



CBE staff is requesting an estimated **\$90M maximum in CBE match funding** to replace the structures based on conceptual-level cost estimates by the project team. Allocation of these funds will be contingent on an INFRA grant award. Current BE Program Forecasts indicate that this project can be accommodated between FY 2023-24 and FY 2025-26 (the current construction schedule); however, adjustments to other Region 1 projects in the base program may be necessary depending on the timing of the forecast expenditures for I-270 and these previously programmed projects. It is anticipated that the addition of I-270 to the base program can be accomplished through the reprioritization of Region 1 projects and allocation of previously unprogrammed budget in FY2024-25 and FY2025-26. Additionally, a traffic and revenue study of the corridor is currently underway and scheduled for completion in summer of 2021. If a larger portion of the project can be financed based on toll revenue projections or if other external funding becomes available, the BE contribution may potentially be reduced or eliminated, and available funds will be reallocated to other high priority statewide bridge projects.

**Next Steps:**

1. CDOT will submit a grant application for the project by the USDOT March 19<sup>th</sup> deadline.
2. If a grant is awarded, CBE staff will return to the Board requesting funding as part of the monthly budget supplement process.
3. If a grant is not awarded, CDOT staff will evaluate the viability of advancing the project to construction with other funding sources.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Resolution # BE 21-2-XX: Committing a CBE funding match for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Discretionary Grant Program to address six CBE eligible structures as part of the I-270 Corridor Safety and Mobility Project.

