

DATE: March 13, 2017

TO: High Performance Transportation Enterprise Board

FROM: Megan Castle, Communications Office

SUBJECT: Central 70 Pre Final RFP Events Public Outreach Summary

# <u>Purpose</u>

CDOT and HPTE hosted two public meetings on the Central 70 project on February 15 and 16, to give important updates on the plans to reconstruct I-70 between Brighton Boulevard and Chambers Road, as well as the next steps in the process to select a developer to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the highway in northeast Denver.

The public release of the final RFP continues HPTE's implementation of the Transparency Policy adopted by HPTE in July 2014, which incorporates an Executive Order from Gov. John Hickenlooper directing CDOT to expand the transparency and public participation in future public-private partnerships (P3s). This is the fourth public outreach event related to P3 details for the Central 70 project. This memo contains details on HPTE's outreach events for the Central 70 project

#### Action

Informational only - no action is required.

# Background

CDOT and HPTE's meetings included a telephone town hall (Feb. 15, 2017) focusing on how a public-private partnership (P3) is being explored for this project and the developer selection process. Also, an in-person public meeting town hall was held on Feb.16, 2017, at the Swansea Recreation Center, located in the affected project neighborhood. At the meetings, the public had the opportunity to provide input and ask questions on the P3 process and on the project.

### Details

About the meetings:

Feb. 15 Telephone Town Hall (TTH):

- The TTH hosted 2,221 participants, including 49 who called in
- Outbound calls went to communities along the I-70 corridor, including commuters
- 21 questions answered live and 12 voicemails received with questions or comments following the live call

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017, Shannon Gifford, HPTE Board and CDOT Transportation Commission member; Tony DeVito, Central 70 Project Director; David Spector, HPTE Director; and Diane Barrett, City and County of Denver, Mayor's Office; facilitated a telephone town hall with residents in the Front Range and along the Central 70 corridor to provide an overview and update on the P3 procurement process for the Central 70 project, take comments and answer questions.

# Telephone Town Hall Participation

Approximately 2,221 households participated with 49 participating as "inbound" callers. These inbound callers used a 1-800 number that was publicized in all public notifications of the event. The average minutes spent on the telephone town hall by participants was 16 minutes, and the peak level participation was 365 persons.

### **Questions and Comments**

The panel responded to 21 questions during the 60-minute telephone town hall. Another 12 participants left questions and comments via voicemail recording at the conclusion of the town hall and were responded to that week. The most frequent questions and comments presented live during the call, via email and in voicemail messages related to questions about the project and construction.

### **Interactive Survey Questions**

The telephone town hall also included the following four live survey questions and the results:

Q1: "How often do you travel on I-70 east of I-25?

Responses: Daily: 17%

1-3 times per week: 24%

1-3 times per month: 32%

1-3 times per year: 18%

Not at all: 9%

Q2: "What's the best way for you to get information about Central 70?"

Responses:	Message signs on the higway:	1%
	TV, radio or newspaper stories:	12%
	Public meetings:	6%
	Newsletters, fact sheets, websites, and other project	
	materials:	18%
	Social media:	<b>9</b> %
	All of the above:	54%

#### Feb. 16, 2017 Town Hall:

CDOT and HPTE hosted a town hall at the Swansea Recreation Center, located in the affected community with 112 registered attendees. Informational boards on the project, public-private partnerships and the RFP process were available, as well as a planned presentation by CDOT and HPTE to answer questions and comments. The presentation is available online, and in lieu of presenting it, CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt took questions and answers from the attendees. Many attendees voiced concern about the project, and Mr. Bhatt answered all questions regarding the reroute, construction and other issues.

### **Key Benefits**

These public meetings followed HPTE's protocol on following the Transparency Policy requirements. The meetings were helpful in reaching and providing information to the general public, elected officials, stakeholders and media, as well as to provide their feedback to the HPTE Board, CDOT's Transportation Commission and Bridge Enterprise Board members.

# Next Steps

No further action required.