

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** CTIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** NICK FARBER, CTIO DIRECTOR, AND SIMON LOGAN, SPECIAL PROJECTS  
LEAD AND POLICY ANALYST  
**SUBJECT:** CENTRAL 70 GLOBEVILLE & ELYRIA-SWANSEA (GES) TOLLING EQUITY  
PROGRAM APPROVAL AND IAA BETWEEN CTIO AND CDOT  
**DATE:** APRIL 20, 2022

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### Purpose

To present the Central 70 GES Tolling Equity Program and Intra Agency Agreement (IAA) between the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)<sup>1</sup> and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for start-up and program administration costs in the initial years of the program. The funds, totaling \$1 million, will be drawn from the Central 70 project contingency fund in one lump sum payment.

### Action

CTIO staff is seeking approval of Resolution #384 authorizing the approval of the Central 70 GES Tolling Equity Program and IAA between CTIO and CDOT for startup and program administration costs for the program.

### Background

The 2017 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Central 70 project included a commitment for CTIO to explore ways to provide discounted access to the Express Lanes for low-income residents of the Globeville and Elyria-Swansea (GES) neighborhoods. As a result, CTIO embarked on a year-long process to comply with this commitment.

This effort included significant engagement with peer agencies nationwide, the GES community, and other local stakeholders. CTIO staff presented an overview of the steps taken between March 2021 and March 2022 to develop a program option to bring to the CTIO Board of Directors for approval on April 20, 2022. See the CTIO Board Packet from March for further background information.

### Overview of the Central 70 GES Tolling Equity Program and IAA

Based on all the feedback received as part of this effort, CTIO staff working under the guidance provided by the Steering Committee developed the following recommendation for the CTIO Board of Directors for consideration.

- Benefit:
  - All eligible participants will receive a switchable transponder and promotional credit totaling a monetary value of \$100 when they enroll in the program.

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<sup>1</sup> The High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) is now doing business as the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO). CTIO is how the enterprise refers to itself now and in the future. However, the HPTE name is retained for legislative and legal documents.

- Additional funds will be available annually for the GES community to decide how to allocate the funds either towards free transit passes or to add credit to the previously enrolled tolling equity Express Lanes accounts after the first year.
- Eligibility:
  - Residents of GES with an annual household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and households displaced from GES due to eminent domain for the I-70 Central Project with an annual household income below 200 percent of the FPL. CDOT holds a list of these displaced households.
- Budget/Available funds:
  - CTIO will cover the initial cost of the free transponder and promotional credit for all eligible residents.
  - Each subsequent year, 15 percent of net toll revenue from the Central 70 Express Lanes will be allocated to the GES community to pay for the ongoing benefits.

IAAs between CDOT and HPTE document the substantive terms of how CDOT and CTIO work together and allocate rights and responsibilities on shared projects. This IAA states that CDOT agrees a payment of \$1 million to CTIO for start-up and program administration costs of the Central 70 GES Tolling Equity Program drawn from the existing Central 70 project contingency fund. The administration costs are estimated at an average of \$100,000 per year over ten years.

### Options/Decision Matrix

1. **Staff recommendation:** Approve the Central 70 GES Tolling Equity Program and IAA between CDOT and CTIO
2. Review but do not approve the program and IAA. Provide instructions on changes or revisions.

### Next Steps

- CTIO will work with E-470 on how to integrate the program into the existing back office.
- CTIO will identify an organization that is already active and trusted within the community to support GES resident outreach.
- A program launch and community outreach are anticipated in the fall of 2022, three months ahead of tolling go live.
- Per the IAA, CTIO will submit to CDOT an annual progress report on the implementation of the GES Tolling Equity Program prior to January 15th of each fiscal year.

### Attachments

- A. Central 70 GES Tolling Equity Program Intra-Agency Agreement
- B. Resolution #384