

Resolution - HPTE #427

Committing a CTIO Funding Match for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Proposal: Removing the Highway Barrier: Equitably Restoring Colfax and Federal Mobility and Land Use

WHEREAS, the General Assembly created the Colorado High Performance Transportation Enterprise (“HPTE”)¹, pursuant to Section 43-4-806, C.R.S., as a government-owned business within the Colorado Department of Transportation (“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, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) appropriated \$3.353 billion to be awarded by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) for FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was issued by the USDOT on July 5, 2023, for the FY 2023 RCN Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 to the original NOFO was issued August 21, 2023, to reflect clarification language, additional language, and to make clerical amendments; and

WHEREAS, applications for the FY 2023 RCN Grant Program must be submitted by 11:59 PM EDT on Thursday, September 28, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2023 RCN Grant Program will award discretionary funds to projects that prioritize disadvantaged communities, improve access to jobs, education, healthcare, food and recreation, foster equitable development; reconnect communities by removing retrofitting, mitigating, or replacing highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development; and

WHEREAS, CTIO, CDOT, and the City and County of Denver (CCD) recognize that the Colfax and Federal Interchange, constructed in 1957 and covering approximately 29 acres of land, provides a unique opportunity to reshape land uses to better serve the needs of the community, increase market value of the land through equitable development, and facilitate all modes of transportation, including transit, informed through significant community outreach and stakeholder engagement, and

WHEREAS, CTIO, CDOT, and the CCD signed a letter of commitment in August 2019 to jointly explore, assess, and analyze, in much greater detail, the opportunities and challenges of transforming the Colfax and Federal Interchange; and through this

¹ 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.

grant application, pursued in the spirit of partnership and recognition by both agencies of the need for significant change at this location, endeavoring to move the effort forward into a tangible and deliverable solution, and

WHEREAS, this NOFO seeks this type of collaborative effort, with a strong focus on community outreach and stakeholder engagement, to equitably address the safe transportation and neighborhood connectivity needs of the local communities and vulnerable roadway users; and

WHEREAS, given CTIO's mission to aggressively seek out opportunities for innovative and efficient means of financing and delivering important surface transportation infrastructure projects in the state, the CTIO Board is being asked to commit matching funds in order to increase the competitiveness of the Department's application.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in order to show the Department's financial commitment to the Removing the Highway Barrier: Equitably Restoring Colfax and Federal Mobility and Land Use RCN grant proposal, and because a state match is required and enhances the viability of the application, the CTIO commits to providing up to a maximum of \$400,000 of available revenues to analyze market value of the land, provide guidance on the highest and best use of the land given the interchange redesign that will result from the study, and coordinate with the development community for due diligence on land valuation and innovative financing feasibility if the Department's application is awarded a grant by the USDOT.

Signed as of September 20, 2023

Simon Logan
Secretary, HPTE Board of Directors

