

## Colorado Transportation Investment Office Memorandum

**To:** CTIO Board of Directors

**From:** Simon Logan, Special Projects Lead and Policy Analyst

**Date:** April 16, 2025

**Subject:** Globeville and Elyria Swansea (GES) Tolling Equity Program  
Additional Benefit Analysis

### **Purpose:**

Presenting the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)<sup>1</sup> Board of Directors, an assessment of possible additional benefits that could be added to the GES Tolling Equity Program.

### **Requested Action:**

No action is being requested at this time.

### **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 GES neighborhoods. As a result, CTIO embarked on a year-long process to comply with this commitment and identify a program to bring to the CTIO Board of Directors for approval. This effort included significant engagement with peer agencies nationwide, the GES community, and other local stakeholders. The CTIO Board of Directors (CTIO Board) approved the program in April 2022.

The approved GES Tolling Equity Program has three main components:

#### 1. Benefits

- Toll credit (\$100) and a transponder for eligible residents to access the Express Lanes.
- Free Transit passes. Available within the community at various distribution sites.

#### 2. Eligibility:

- Residents of GES with an annual household income below 100 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) 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.
- Eligible residents don't have to choose one or the other; they can receive both benefits.

#### 2. Funding

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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.

- Administrative and start-up costs, up to \$1 million, provided by CDOT.
- CTIO covers 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 is allocated for toll credit and transit passes, making this an ongoing benefit to the community.

### **Benefit distribution and partners**

- **Transit Pass Distribution (2024)**
  - \$258k total - 48,820 single ride tickets (54% increase) and 1347 monthly passes (Over 1000% increase)
- **Toll Credits (2024)**
  - Over \$14k credits added - Almost 100 registered vehicles (22% increase)

### **Program Changes and Board Direction**

- The CTIO Board approved changes to the program in 2025 related to income eligibility and directed staff to explore what additional benefits comply with federal law and are a good fit for the community. An analysis has been included in the appendix that complies with this request which recommends gauging interest in extending the GES Connector shuttle service to the weekends.
- The GES Connector shuttle service acts like an Uber/Lyft and has a high reach using its 3 vehicles to transport people throughout the communities boundaries i.e. it is only within GES. It has high utilization with an average of 90 rides per day, carrying an average of 140 passengers. Currently, funding only allows for a service from Monday to Friday.

### **Next Steps**

- CTIO staff will explore the administration and costs associated with the selected option, add an additional question in an upcoming transit pass survey and door-to-door outreach to gauge interest in extending the service, and bring additional information back to the board at a future meeting for potential approval of an additional benefit

### **Attachments:**

- Attachment A: GES Tolling Equity Program Presentation
- Attachment B: GES Tolling Equity Additional Benefit Analysis