



March 13, 2026

Colorado Transportation Investment Office  
CTIO Board  
2829 West Howard Place  
Denver, CO 80204

RE: Bustang Operations Funding

Dear Chair Gutierrez,

The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) appreciates CDOT's continued partnership in delivering Bustang service along the North I-25 corridor. Bustang provides significant benefits to the communities across our region, and the Planning Council strongly supports and values the important role it plays in reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, mitigating congestion, improving travel reliability, and extending the lifespan of critical roadway infrastructure.

The I-25 corridor is a vital statewide economic backbone that supports commuters, freight movement, tourism, and commerce throughout Colorado. Yet significant work remains to improve capacity, reliability, and safety along this corridor. For this reason, we are concerned about the proposal to use I-25 Managed Lane revenues to subsidize other Bustang routes outside of the I-25 corridor.

State law and the original intent of the managed lane program emphasized that revenues generated within a designated corridor should remain within that corridor to support mobility improvements for the users who generate those funds. Diverting these revenues to support services outside the corridor risks slowing necessary improvements on one of Colorado's most critical transportation networks.

We believe the current budget challenge highlights the importance of conducting a comprehensive, data-driven evaluation of the Bustang system. Such an analysis should examine ridership trends, travel patterns, route performance, and long-term financial sustainability. Using available travel and ridership data will help identify where demand is strongest, where service gaps exist, and where network efficiencies may be realized to maximize the effective use of limited resources.

While addressing the current funding gap is important, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Bustang service will require thoughtful analysis and strategic adjustments. Protecting the strongest routes while evaluating system performance will help ensure this valuable program remains viable for years to come.

Bustang's North I-25 route is the most heavily used in the entire state and serves a critical role in connecting workers, students, businesses, and visitors across the state. Given its strong ridership



and direct connection to corridor mobility, the Planning Council supports the use of I-25 Managed Lane revenues funding sustainable Bustang operations within the I-25 corridor.

The NFRMPO appreciates the work CDOT is doing to maintain and strengthen this important transit service. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the Bustang program and the I-25 corridor remain strong and sustainable for the communities they serve.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our request as these important decisions are being evaluated.

Sincerely,

**Signature:** *Kristin Stephens*  
Kristin Stephens (Mar 13, 2026 15:24:44 MDT)

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Kristin Stephens  
Chair

cc: Piper Darlington, CTIO Director