

## Baca County Commissioners 741 Main Street, Suite 1 Springfield, CO 81073 Telephone: (719) 523-6532 ~ Fax: (719) 523-6584

Glen R. Ausmus, Two Buttes, District I sausmus@bacacountyco.gov Shiloh Freed, Campo, District II <u>sfreed@bacacountyco.gov</u> Rick Butler, Pritchett, District III rbutler@bacacountyco.gov

October 9, 2023

Transportation Planning Region Boundary Study Advisory Committee Members Transportation Commissioners Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee Members

## Subject: Adamant Opposition to Modifications of TPR/MPO Boundaries in the SE TPR

Dear Transportation Planning Region Boundary Study Advisory Committee Members, Transportation Commissioners and Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee Members,

The Board of County Commissioners of Baca County, Colorado, member of the Southeast TPR, submit this letter in response to the TPR study mandated by HB23 - 1101. As you are aware, the Southeast TPR is comprised of six counties (Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers) as well as the 10 municipalities within those counties. In regard to the potential changes in TPR boundaries, we request that the Southeast Transportation Planning Region stay the same and that there are no additions or deletions of the members currently within the SE TPR boundary.

The proposal aims to combine SE TPR with SC TPR. SC TPR is 6,368 square miles and encompasses two counties and 15 municipalities within their boundaries. This would create an enormous area and we already have monumental tasks of representing our respective area without adding additional counties. This creates yet again another capacity issue to an already stressed area that strives to build capacity in the regions they serve.

We do not feel that the comparison of the Southeast/South Central TPRs to one that is located along the I-70 corridor yields a fair assessment. We know that we are very rural and as such our needs, the travel and the data that it yields is very different in our regions, but certainly not any less important. At the end of the day, the roads traveled in our region, lead to the interior of our great State, and they are certainly a reflection of the time, money and effort of those in authority.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider the combining of our TPRS and truly hope that our voices will be heard and considered in the HB1101 boundary decision.

Sincerely,

Glen R. Ausmus, Two Buttes, District I sausmus@bacacountyco.gov

Shiloh Freed, Campo, District II <u>sfreed@bacacountyco.gov</u>

Rick Butler, Pritchett, District III rbutler@bacacountyco.gov