



July 20, 2005

Mr. Jim Townsend
Wilson & Company
999 18th Street, Suite 2600
Denver, CO 80202

Re: C-470 Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Townsend:

The Jefferson Economic Council is fully in support of improvements to C-470 as envisioned in your Environmental Assessment. We realize that many of the improvements are located in Douglas County, however the proposed lane additions begin at Kipling Parkway, in Jefferson County.

One of Jefferson Economic Council's priorities is to build our transportation infrastructure to support the efficient movement of goods, services and people throughout Jefferson County and the Denver metropolitan region. This is why we have supported projects such as the FasTracks plan, as well as the completion of the Northwest Corridor. We actively spoke in favor of FasTracks and I support the completion of the Northwest Corridor as a member of the Corridor Consensus Committee. In the case of the subject project, access to, from, and partially through Jefferson County will be improved. Especially during peak hour travel, we understand that C-470 (Kipling to I-25) currently is a very congested road. In fact, your own research indicates that a no action alternative would mean a future peak hour delay duration of 8 to 10 hours per day. The express lane alternative would have no delay, with a 4 hour delay on general purpose lanes. If general purpose lanes could be funded, there would be no delay. The existing congestion negatively impacts our businesses and residents, and future congestion will be markedly worse without significant improvements.

There is very little funding for additional regional infrastructure throughout the Denver metropolitan region and Colorado as a whole. Even if referendums C and D pass, the revenue derived from their passage for transportation improvements will literally be a "drop in the bucket". This brings up the point that we are of course in favor of general purpose lanes, but the funding just is not available for the construction. Therefore, as a viable alternative, we would support a tolled facility. Such a facility would provide for fast travel with no peak hour delays for those willing to pay the toll, and for those that are unwilling or unable to pay the toll, they will also benefit because traffic will be taken off of the existing general purpose lanes. Beyond tolling, we would also support a vigorous

attempt to find and acquire any and all federal monies that might become available for the facility.

In closing, I also want to express that we were discouraged that the EA did not include the entire length of C-470 from I-25, all the way to I-70. When I attended some of the original public meetings, I noted that future traffic demands between I-70 and Morrison Road are in some cases higher than those projected in the stretch from Kipling Parkway to I-25. Therefore, we would like to see an EA started on that section of C-470 as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project to Jefferson County businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston E. Gibson", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Preston E. Gibson
President/CEO