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3.0 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the I-270 Corridor Improvements Project (project) is to implement transportation solutions that modernize the I-270 corridor to accommodate existing and forecasted transportation demands. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) identifies five transportation needs for the corridor:

- **Traveler safety on the corridor.** I-270 experiences crash rates significantly higher than comparable four-lane urban freeways in Colorado—about 42 crashes per mile per year—nearly 40 percent higher than similar facilities statewide. Nearly 3,000 crashes occurred from 2014 through 2022, including more than 700 injury crashes and 14 fatal crashes. Frequent crashes lead to sudden congestion and reliability issues, creating safety concerns for freight carriers, employers, and residents.
- **Travel time and reliability on the corridor.** Congestion regularly exceeds the roadway's intended capacity. Unpredictable conditions, compounded by crash-related delays, worsen reliability for commuters and freight movement.
- **Transit on the corridor.** Existing transit service is limited in the corridor, and the current facility does not support efficient or reliable transit operations. The corridor lacks infrastructure that enables priority transit treatments or competitive travel times for transit users.
- **Bicycle and pedestrian connectivity across I-270.** I-270 creates a barrier for people walking and biking, with limited and substandard crossings. Improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity is needed to link neighborhoods, job centers, and local destinations across the corridor.
- **Freight operations on the corridor.** Freight represents 8-17 percent of daily traffic on I-270, depending on the location. The corridor experiences delays, limited merge/weave areas, and inadequate operational features for modern freight demands.

In addition to addressing project needs, CDOT, Federal Highway Administration, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies have established a key project goal: to minimize environmental and community impacts resulting from the project.

For more information on the Purpose and Need, refer to Chapter 2.0, Purpose and Need, of the Draft EIS.