

RESOLUTION

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. HIGHWAY 85 FASTLANE GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Weld County Board of Commissioners recognizes and values the U.S. Highway 85 corridor as a regional economic development center and the backbone of northern Colorado, and

WHEREAS, Northern Colorado is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation and the fastest in Colorado, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. 85 corridor serves numerous communities and industries that rely heavily upon the highway and railway to deliver goods and resources. Improvements will support the economic vitality of the region, accommodate the movement of freight commodities associated with the energy (renewable energy, as well as fossil fuel resources) and the agriculture sectors, as well as the everyday travel of workers, residents, and visitors, and

WHEREAS, Weld County is a member of the Highway 85 Coalition and has been working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), regional planning agencies, and neighboring communities to improve U.S. Highway 85, and

WHEREAS, the operational issues of this corridor are caused by the minimal distance between the highway and railroad, which has negatively impacted the corridor's safety, capacity, and emissions with respect to the movement of freight through the region, and

WHEREAS, Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) is a competitive grant established by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) of 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) FASTLANE application must be submitted by April 14th, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Highway 85 improvements to be included in the Project together comprise approximately \$120 million dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Weld County, Colorado hereby fully supports the Colorado Department of Transportation's FASTLANE Grant Application for the Centennial Highway (U.S. Highway 85) Betterments Improvement Project to provide much needed improvements to U.S. Highway 85, specifically focused on enhancing the highway operations and the railroad (UPRR) operations to improve freight movement, mobility and accessibility.

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PAGE 2

The above and foregoing Resolution was, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted by the following vote on the 11th day of April, A.D., 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST: Arthur G. Meick

Weld County Clerk to the Board

BY: Stephanie Frederick
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Mike Freeman
Mike Freeman, Chair

Sean P. Conway
Sean P. Conway, Pro-Tem

Barbara Kirkmeyer
Barbara Kirkmeyer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Julie Cozad
Julie Cozad

Steve Moreno
Steve Moreno

[Signature]
County Attorney

Date of signature: 4/11/16

