

Press Release

Contacts:

Herman Stockinger, CDOT Director of Policy and Government Relations, (303)757-9077

Rick Richter, City of Fort Collins Engineering & Capital Projects Mgr., (970)221-6798

John Frey, Project Manager, Town of Windsor, (970)482-0212

Deleted:

Deleted: anag

Deleted: er

Release Date: October 6, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Department of Transportation, City of Fort Collins and Town of Windsor Submit Joint Application for Federal Grant Funds

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is making available \$1.5 billion for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The Secretary of Transportation will award grants on a competitive basis for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure projects. Awards are expected to be announced in February of next year.

A joint application for TIGER grant funding has been submitted by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the City of Fort Collins and the Town of Windsor for funds to reconstruct and improve the Interstate 25 and State Highway 392 interchange. The interchange is a critical connection for the Northern Colorado region and surrounding states. The current design of the interchange produces long traffic delays, has safety concerns with the geometrics, and has no bicycle or pedestrian facilities. The grant application is for \$27 million, the total project cost.

If TIGER funding is obtained for the I-25/392 project, the region would benefit in many ways. The project would include a new bridge with turn lanes, bike and pedestrian facilities, an expanded park and ride lot, and safety improvements with a realigned frontage road. It also would include the following:

Economic Benefits: Combined total long-term economic impacts related to hiring and other growth of private sector production is estimated to be \$2.6 billion through 2035. The improvement of the interchange could generate approximately 7,000 jobs during this time period.

Safety Benefits: Crashes are expected to be reduced by 30%. In addition to improving safety, this would result in a savings of more than \$18 million through the year 2035.

Sustainability Benefits: More than 14 million gallons of fuel could be saved, and nearly 140,000 tons of carbon emissions eliminated. In addition, the design of the project accommodates a variety of transit alternatives for I-25 in the future.

Liveability Benefits: Reduced congestion would result in 15 million fewer vehicle hours of travel and \$128 million in savings through 2035.

This project has received unanimous support from lawmakers and public and private organizations including Governor Ritter, Colorado Senators Bennet & Udall, Representative Markey, the North Front Range MPO, and economic development organizations in Weld County and Larimer County.

####