# SUNIGA/LEMAY MULTI-MODAL AND FREIGHT CONNECTIVITY PROJECT TIGER Discretionary Grant Application

June 4, 2015

## APPENDIX D: LETTERS OF SUPPORT





MICHAEL F. BENNET COLORADO

COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

FINANCE

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS



WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC: 458 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224-5852

COLORADO: 1127 SHERMAN STREET SUITE 150 DENVER, CO 80203–2398 (303) 455–7600 http://www.bennet.senate.gov

May 18, 2015

The Honorable Secretary Anthony Foxx United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to support the City of Fort Collins' application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant. If approved, funding will be used for their Suniga/Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project (Suniga/Lemay Project).

The City of Fort Collins' project seeks to construct a grade separated crossing of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the Suniga/Lemay Project will be a vital improvement of the city's transportation infrastructure. The intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, as well as the traveling public. The City of Fort Collins and its neighborhood and business partners seek to improve the safety of the targeted area, as well as gain the benefits of: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three historically significant neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the local underserved populations of the Alta Vista, Andersonville and Buckingham neighborhoods.

The City of Fort Collins identified the various needs in the targeted area and has studied options to address local concerns through its transportation planning processes. After nearly 30 years of study and increases in traffic, accidents and city growth, the city has determined the necessity in implementing the Suniga/Lemay Project. The City of Fort Collins has worked in partnership with the city's Planning, Development and Transportation Department, Utilities Department, BNSF Railroad, Fort Collins Housing Authority, North Fort Collins Business Association and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to address the identified needs of the project area.

The city has a strong track record in meeting federal grant requirements and has committed 37% in match to their federal funding request, showing their strong commitment to fiscal responsibility of tax payer dollars.

I encourage you to give the City of Fort Collins' application every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your consideration, and please notify my office of any funds awarded.

WU F. But

Michael F. Bennet United States Senator

SUITE SD-B40B DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224-5941

## United States Senate

COMMITTEES: COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOREIGN RELATIONS SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

May 27, 2015

Anthony Foxx, Secretary United States Department of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

RE: Grant Application Submitted by the City of Fort Collins DOT-TIGER 2015 grant

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the City of Fort Collins, I am writing to ask for your full and fair consideration for its application to the Department of Transportation TIGER 2015 grant.

The TIGER 2015 grant would fund the city's Suniga and Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project. This project will construct a grade-separated crossing of Lemay Avenue over the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad and Vine Drive. The project would also include four-lane arterial roadways adjacent to the grade-separated crossing.

The City of Fort Collins, in partnership with local businesses and the BNSF Railroad, conducted research for more than 30 years in preparation for this project. Their results indicate a need for improved safety and increased access to businesses in the northeastern region of the city.

Notably, the improved transit will increase access to three underserved neighborhoods by efficiently connecting them to the educational and entrepreneurial opportunities in the metro Fort Collins area.

The grant request is \$17 million and the project will be overseen by the City of Fort Collins Planning, Development and Transportation Department. The City of Fort Collins will provide regular maintenance to the roads, crossings and bicycle and pedestrian routes beyond the period covered by the grant.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration.

Long End

Cory Gardner United States Senator

JARED POLIS 2ND DISTRICT, COLORADO

1433 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515–0602 (202) 225–2161 (202) 226–7840 (Fax)

> website and email: http://polis.house.gov



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE SUBCOMMITTEES: EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

STEERING AND POLICY

June 5, 2015

United States Department of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx;

I would like to express my support for the City of Fort Collins' application for funding as a part of the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The City of Fort Collins' project, Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project, will provide funding for the construction of a grade separated crossing of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road.

The City of Fort Collins has done great due diligence in studying the need for such a project. After 30 years of study and continual increases in traffic, accidents and city growth, the City of Fort Collins has prioritized this project as its #1 transportation capital project. The City of Fort Collins has utilized an extensive planning process working in partnership with the city's Planning, Development and Transportation Department, Utilities Department, BNSF Railroad, Fort Collins Housing Authority, North Fort Collins Business Association and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to appropriately serve the project area and increase the safety and vitality of the affected neighborhoods.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project is a critical part of the transportation infrastructure within the City of Fort Collins. Improvement of the intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, and the traveling public. Along with improved safety, additional benefits stemming from this project include: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three underserved neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the City's northeast residents.

I strongly support the City of Fort Collins application, and ask that their application be given full and fair consideration.

Sincerely, Jared Polis Member of Congress



Gregory E. Dunaway Assistant Vice President Engineering Services BNSF Railway Company 2500 Lou Menk Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76131 Tel: 817.352.1901

gregory.dunaway@bnsf.com

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E. Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

BNSF Railway supports the City of Fort Collins TIGER 2015 funding application for the Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project.

As described in the application, this project proposes to:

- Close the current N Lemay Ave at grade crossing
- Realign Lemay Ave and build a grade separated crossing over the BNSF Front Range Subdivision
- Build a new, higher capacity roadway between State Highway 287 and Timberline Rd, parallel to current E Vine Dr

Construction of this project reduces exposure between rail and vehicular traffic, improving traffic flow for both freight and for public utility.

BNSF is prepared to proceed pending satisfactory review of engineering designs, funding requirements, operating impacts, financial impacts, and negotiation of definitive agreements.

A.E. Durden

Gregory E. Dunaway AVP Engineering Services BNSF Railway



**City Manager's Office** City Hall 300 LaPorte Ave. PO Box 580 Fort Collins, CO 80522

970.221.6505 970.224.6107 - fax fcgov.com

June 5, 2015

United States Department of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx;

I am writing in support of the City of Fort Collins' application for funding as a part of the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The City of Fort Collins' project, Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project, will provide funding for the construction of a grade separated crossing at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive (New Vine Drive) from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road.

The City of Fort Collins has done great due diligence in studying the need for such a project. After 30 years of study and continual increases in vehicle and train traffic, accidents and city growth, the City of Fort Collins has prioritized this project as its #1 transportation capital project. The City of Fort Collins has utilized an extensive planning process working in partnership with City Departments, BNSF, area businesses and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to appropriately serve the project area and increase the safety and vitality of the affected neighborhoods. The City of Fort Collins previously developed a land use and economic development plan for the surrounding area and has moved to the next phase of preliminary design for the project.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project is a critical part of the transportation infrastructure within the City of Fort Collins. Improvement of the intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, and the travelling public. Along with improved safety, additional benefits stemming from this project include: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three underserved neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the citizens of Fort Collins.

The City of Fort Collins has an excellent track record in meeting Federal grant requirements and will deliver the project within budget and on schedule. The financial magnitude of this high priority project is beyond the capacity of our traditional local and private funding mechanisms and will require federal assistance to become a reality. I offer my full support in the City of Fort Collins' Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project application for funding.

Darin Atteberry, ICMA-CM / AICP City Manager



419 Canyon Avenue, Suite 300 Fort Collins, Colorado 80521 (970) 221-6243 (800) 332-0950 (Colorado only) FAX: (970) 416-2406 www.nfrmpo.org www.smarttrips.org

#### **MPO Planning Council**

Commissioner Sean Conway- Chair Weld County Joan Shaffer- Vice Chair City of Loveland Mayor Pro-Tem Jan Dowker - Past Chair Town of Berthoud Kevin Ross Town of Eaton Mayor John Morris City of Evans Mayor Pro-Tem Gerry Horak City of Fort Collins Town of Garden City Mayor Tom Norton City of Greeley Troy Mellon Town of Johnstown Commissioner Tom Donnelly Larimer County Paula Cochran Town of LaSalle Jordan Jemiola Town of Milliken Mayor Don Brookshire Town of Severance Paul Steinway Town of Timnath Mayor John Vazquez Town of Windsor

Chris Colclasure CDPHE- Air Pollution Control Division Kathy Gilliland Transportation Commission

#### MPO Staff

Terri Blackmore Executive Director Becky Karasko Regional Transportation Planning Director Renae Steffen Administrative Director Crystal Hedberg Finance Manager Mary Warring Mobility Coordinator May 26, 2015

Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation United States Department of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Fort Collins – Suniga/Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity 2015 TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning Council is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the North Front Range of Colorado. It is currently a Transportation Management Area (TAM) and a non-attainment area for ozone. Managing congestion for both automobiles and rail freight is critical for the North Front Range.

The improvement recommended as part of the Fort Collins TIGER application would provide a much needed grade separation in a low income minority neighborhood adjacent to a rail line that averages 8-10 very long trains each day. Neighborhoods and northern Larimer County north of this rail line must cross this and another rail line to access the nearest hospital when using this corridor.

The proposed cross section will realign Lemay providing improved safety and access to the low income neighborhood, 8 foot bike lanes and 10 foot detached sidewalks where neither currently exist. This will also improve the transit service on both Lemay and Suniga. The grade separated bridge will also have bike lanes and sidewalks.

This proposed project is providing a 37% match and meets the requirement of a \$10 M minimum. It also provides an improvement for the BNSF railroad with one fewer grade crossing.

The City has worked with the neighborhood while developing this project and it will reduce train/vehicle crashes. As stated above, this proposed project will improve safety, multi-modal and transit infrastructure, freight movement reliability and revitalize three underserved low income and minority neighborhoods.

Sincerely, TERRE Blacomos

Terri Blackmore Executive Director



### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Post Office Box 1190 Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190

> (970) 498-5700 FAX (970) 498-7986

May 21, 2015

United States Department of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx;

Larimer County, located in the north central portion of the State of Colorado and immediately north of Denver, is writing in support of the City of Fort Collins' application for funding as a part of the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The City of Fort Collins' project, *Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project*, will provide funding for the construction of a grade separated crossing at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive (New Vine Drive) from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road. This project, located on the north side of the city, is an important connection for County residents accessing City services.

The City of Fort Collins has done significant due diligence in studying the need for this project. The City has utilized an extensive planning process working in partnership with City Departments, BNSF, area businesses and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to appropriately serve the project area and increase the safety and vitality of the affected neighborhoods. The City of Fort Collins previously developed a land use and economic development plan for the surrounding area and has moved to the next phase of preliminary design for the project. After 30 years of study and continual increases in vehicle and train traffic, accidents and city growth, this project has been prioritized as the City's #1 transportation capital project.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the *Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project* is a critical part of the transportation infrastructure within the City of Fort Collins. Improvement of the intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, and the travelling public. Along with improved safety, additional benefits stemming from this project include: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three underserved neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the citizens of Fort Collins.

Larimer County is excited about the prospect of improving safety, relieving congestion and implementing the multi-modal connections in northeast Fort Collins and surrounding Larimer County. Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins have worked collaboratively for decades on long range transportation and mobility issues and solutions. Larimer County offers full support to the City of Fort Collins' *Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project* application for funding.

Uyeman\_

Marc Engemoen Public Works Director, Larimer County



970.482.3746 970.482.3774 <del>fa</del>x

June 5, 2015

United States Department of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx;

I am writing in support of the City of Fort Collins' application for funding as a part of the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The City of Fort Collins' project, Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project, will provide funding for the construction of a grade separated crossing at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive (New Vine Drive) from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road.

The City of Fort Collins has done great due diligence in studying the need for such a project. After 30 years of study and continual increases in vehicle and train traffic, accidents and city growth, the City of Fort Collins has prioritized this project as its #1 transportation capital project. The City of Fort Collins has utilized an extensive planning process working in partnership with City Departments, BNSF, area businesses and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to appropriately serve the project area and increase the safety and vitality of the affected neighborhoods. The City of Fort Collins previously developed a land use and economic development plan for the surrounding area and has moved to the next phase of preliminary design for the project.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project is a critical part of the transportation infrastructure within the City of Fort Collins. Improvement of the intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, and the travelling public. Along with improved safety, additional benefits stemming from this project include: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three underserved neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the citizens of Fort Collins.

The Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce is excited about the prospect of improving multi-modal connections and relieving vehicle and train congestion in northeast Fort Collins. The Chamber is an active and forward-focused organization of 1,000 members, with a wide range of supporters from sole proprietors to large, multi-national corporations. Our organizations focus centers on the importance that the business perspective is heard and understood by public officials. Our Chamber has earned the prestigious national 5-star accreditation, putting us in the top 1% of all chambers throughout the United States. We offer our full support in the City of Fort Collins' Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project application for funding.

Sincerely, **The Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce** 

avid I May

David L. May President & CEO

## bowntown ddda bevelopment Authority

May 19, 2015

United States Department of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx;

I am writing in support of the City of Fort Collins' application for funding as a part of the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The City of Fort Collins' project, Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project, will provide funding for the construction of a grade separated crossing at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive (New Vine Drive) from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road.

The City of Fort Collins has done great due diligence in studying the need for such a project. After 30 years of study and continual increases in vehicle and train traffic, accidents and city growth, the City of Fort Collins has prioritized this project as its #1 transportation capital project. The City of Fort Collins has utilized an extensive planning process working in partnership with City Departments, BNSF, area businesses and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to appropriately serve the project area and increase the safety and vitality of the affected neighborhoods. The City of Fort Collins previously developed a land use and economic development plan for the surrounding area and has moved to the next phase of preliminary design for the project.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project is a critical part of the transportation infrastructure within the City of Fort Collins. Improvement of the intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, and the travelling public. Along with improved safety, additional benefits stemming from this project include: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three underserved neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the citizens of Fort Collins.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is excited about the prospect of improving multi-modal connections and relieving vehicle and train congestion adjacent to the Fort Collins downtown area. The DDA's mission is to build public and private investment partnerships that foster economic, cultural and social growth in the Fort Collins central business district. I offer my full support in the City of Fort Collins' Suniga/Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project application for funding.

Matt Robenalt Executive Director



June 5, 2015

United States Department of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx;

I am writing in support of the City of Fort Collins' application for funding as a part of the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The City of Fort Collins' project, Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project, will provide funding for the construction of a grade separated crossing at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive (New Vine Drive) from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road.

The City of Fort Collins has done great due diligence in studying the need for such a project. After 30 years of study and continual increases in vehicle and train traffic, accidents and city growth, the City of Fort Collins has prioritized this project as its #1 transportation capital project. The City of Fort Collins has utilized an extensive planning process working in partnership with City Departments, BNSF, area businesses and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to appropriately serve the project area and increase the safety and vitality of the affected neighborhoods. The City of Fort Collins previously developed a land use and economic development plan for the surrounding area and has moved to the next phase of preliminary design for the project.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project is a critical part of the transportation infrastructure within the City of Fort Collins. Improvement of the intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, and the traveling public. Along with improved safety, additional benefits stemming from this project include: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three underserved neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the citizens of Fort Collins.

The Fort Collins Hosing Authority (FCHA) is excited about the prospect of improving multimodal connections and relieving vehicle and train congestion in northeast Fort Collins. The FCHA's focus is a triple bottom line approach to providing affordable housing and supportive services. Our organization assists over 5,000 individuals in Fort Collins and throughout Larimer County. We are actively pursuing land bank opportunities in the northeast part of the City (Mountain Vista subarea) in an effort to meet citizen demand for affordable housing. I offer my full support in the City of Fort Collins' Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project application for funding.

Julie Brewen CEO/Executive Director





**Transportation Board** 

Olga Duvall, Chair Eric Shenk, Vice Chair

United States Department of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation 1200 Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx;

I am writing in support of the City of Fort Collins' application for funding as a part of the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The City of Fort Collins' project, Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project, will provide funding for the construction of a grade separated crossing at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad at Lemay Avenue and Vine Drive and the construction of Suniga Drive (New Vine Drive) from State Highway 287 to Timberline Road.

The City of Fort Collins has done great due diligence in studying the need for such a project. After 30 years of study and continual increases in vehicle and train traffic, accidents and city growth, the City of Fort Collins has prioritized this project as its #1 transportation capital project. The City of Fort Collins has utilized an extensive planning process working in partnership with City Departments, BNSF, area businesses and local neighborhood groups to determine the best plan to appropriately serve the project area and increase the safety and vitality of the affected neighborhoods. The City of Fort Collins previously developed a land use and economic development plan for the surrounding area and has moved to the next phase of preliminary design for the project.

The grade separated crossing proposed in the Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project is a critical part of the transportation infrastructure within the City of Fort Collins. Improvement of the intersection has become a safety issue for BNSF, emergency services, and the travelling public. Along with improved safety, additional benefits stemming from this project include: multi-modal and transit infrastructure, increased reliability in freight movement, revitalization of three underserved neighborhoods adjacent to the project area, and increased access to business and educational services for the citizens of Fort Collins.

The City of Fort Collins Transportation Board (The Board) is excited about the prospect of improving multi-modal connections and relieving vehicle and train congestion in northeast Fort Collins. The Board is a citizen led, advisory group which examines issues relating to financing, the development and implementation of projects pertaining to multi-modal improvements, transportation congestion, and connectivity. The Board coordinates with other City boards, municipalities throughout the region, offers recommendations to the Fort Collins City Council on key transportation issues and solutions. The Board offers its full support in the City of Fort Collins' Suniga / Lemay Multi-Modal and Freight Connectivity Project application for funding.

Olga Duvall Transportation Board Chair