



August 6, 2017

Comments delivered to Denver City Council

GO Bond funding for Federal Boulevard Transit Improvements

Thank you and good evening Council members and staff. My name is Jamie Perkins, and I am the program manager at Transit Alliance, a nonprofit organization with a 20-year history of advancing public transportation in the metro region. On behalf of Transit Alliance, I am here to provide our comments of support for Federal Boulevard transit improvements in the GO Bond.

First, though, I would like to express our support overall for the GO Bond process and the list of transportation projects that is pushing our City ahead, giving Denverites more choices of how they get around. We support these investments in people who walk, bike, and ride transit.

Transit Alliance backs transit improvements for Federal Boulevard, a strategic transit corridor with the region's second highest ridership, to help the City achieve its goal of decreasing dependence on single occupancy vehicles from 73 percent (and climbing) mode share now to 50 percent by 2030.

Improving mobility options including transit through this corridor is also key to achieving our Vision Zero goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries by traffic crashes. Already this year, four people lost their lives in Federal Boulevard. Further, transit improvements for Federal are crucial for meeting the aims of the Federal Boulevard Corridor Plan and the Denver Moves Transit Plan.

Most importantly, transit improvements for Federal Boulevard will serve Denverites, elevating the dignity of transit riders on RTD's second highest ridership route, and throwing a lifeline to Denverites struggling to afford to stay in Denver.

Improvements such as traffic signal priority and bus stop enhancements help provide more reliable service for riders. For people living along this socioeconomically and racially diverse corridor, access to quality transit service is vital.

Transportation is a household's second highest cost. A person in Denver can save more than \$10,000 annually by switching his or her daily commute by car to public transportation. For some Denverites, that can make the difference for being able to stay in their neighborhood amidst rising housing costs.

Finally, the city has to take the lead for improving transit service. Better transit service relies on supportive street design, and land use. Without transit-supportive street design and land use, RTD cannot deliver more frequent or reliable service. It's imperative that the City of Denver prioritizes projects like the Federal Boulevard transit improvements in the GO Bond package if we are serious about increasing the number of people walking, biking, and riding transit throughout the city.