



April 16, 2010

Dear Jerry:

Congressman Ed Perlmutter is sponsoring an appropriation (earmark) for construction of Phase 1 improvements at the I-70/ 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Interchange in Jefferson County. Your support for this project and earmark is requested. A brief description of the project and its benefits is found below.

### **I-70/32<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PHASE 1 PROJECT**

#### **Description**

This project consists of the following highway improvements:

1. Widening of 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the vicinity of I-70
2. Improving the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue/Youngfield Street intersection

#### **Transportation Benefits of the Project**

The project will improve the traffic flow off/on I-70, as well as improve traffic flow on 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Youngfield Street. Levels of service at this interchange will be improved from the existing service levels of C, D and F to service levels of B and C.

#### **Economic Benefit of the Project**

The highway project can be under contract within 90-120 days. The local Denver economy will benefit from \$5,500,000 in expenditures over the next twelve (12) months, with laborers receiving the bulk of the investment.

Completion of the proposed improvements to the I-70/ 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Interchange (Phase 1 and Phase 2) will not only provide short-term construction employment, but will also stimulate the development of the 220 acre Cabela's Shopping Center. This project will provide ongoing jobs for the construction of the development and associated businesses. **Additionally, over 1,000 permanent direct jobs and over 1,700 permanent indirect jobs would be created** as a result of the proposed development. This development is a critical element of the long term vital economic strategy for this region. The development would generate \$10.5 million annually in sales tax for the State of Colorado, Jefferson County, and Wheat Ridge.

An additional \$1.2 million in property tax for Jefferson County schools, Jefferson County, and the City will also be generated. The Executive Summary of the 2005 *Cabela's Wheat Ridge Fiscal Impact Analysis* is attached for your use.

## **Project Construction Cost Estimate**

The estimated cost of the Phase 1 project is \$5,500,000. The earmark request is \$4,400,000.

## **Project Compliance with Federal Project Requirements**

The project was developed following the 2005 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) *I-70/32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Interchange System Level Feasibility Study*. The Study suggested several improvements to the State highways and local streets to address current traffic congestion and anticipated traffic growth in the area. The recommended improvements were further studied during an Environmental Assessment, with a **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) being issued by the Federal Highway Administration on February 28, 2007**. Following the FONSI, the projects were designed with oversight by the CDOT. Additionally, all required right-of-way has been acquired in conformance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act.

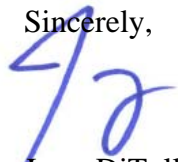
## **Project “Shovel Ready”**

The project design is complete and approved by CDOT. The designed project was bid by local authorities in late 2007 but not awarded because of economic considerations. The project is currently “on the shelf” and will be constructed once funding is available.

The Mayor’s Office would like to organize a summit meeting with Congressman Perlmutter’s staff, CDOT and DRCOG. The goal of this meeting would be to brainstorm on how we can move this project forward in a very timely manner since it is “shovel ready” and there is a local match.

The City of Wheat Ridge thanks you for your support of regional transportation projects in the western region of the Denver metropolitan area. Do not hesitate contacting me or my Staff if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Jerry DiTullio  
Mayor, City of Wheat Ridge

cc: City Council  
Randy Young  
Tim Paranto  
Melanie Keene  
Jefferson County Commissioners  
file