



November 18, 2019

CDOT Transportation Commission  
Executive Director Shoshana Lew  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
2829 W. Howard Place  
Denver, CO 80204

**RE: Support for Northwest Regional Transportation Projects & Regional Funding Appeal**

Dear CDOT Transportation Commission and Executive Director Lew,

Thank you for your leadership and service to the State of Colorado. As a coalition of seven chambers of commerce in the Northwest Denver metro area, we want to advocate for investments into near-term transportation improvements for the Northwest metro region's priority projects with funds the state legislature has approved through SB 1 and SB 267.

Last month, the US 36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition (MCC) sent a letter to CDOT's Transportation Commission and Executive Director Shoshana Lew highlighting project elements and funding needs for State Highway 119 (SH 119) and State Highway 7 (SH 7). As presented, the MCC's transportation project list is an important statement of current transportation infrastructure priorities for our region. The Northwest Chamber Alliance offers its support for this funding appeal and project list.

Every day, we see how our transportation network has failed to keep up with the state's growth. This translates into real harm to Colorado's economy and quality of life. Most importantly, we are focused on achieving outcomes to improve mobility and travel in our communities to support our regional economic goals for Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

The Northwest Chamber Alliance represents 3,600 business and 370,000 employees. Transportation corridors such as SH119 and SH 7 are not only critical to our regional economic vitality, but also serve as key connections for economies of multiple counties throughout Colorado's Front Range. For example, on SH 119 alone, we see 30% of the daily workforce commute trips into Boulder County originate from Weld and Larimer Counties. Analysis has shown that this translates into \$500 million worth of annual incomes being spent in other counties, fueling those economies. On SH 7, requests have been made to further

preliminary engineering efforts for the corridor and for improving the SH 7/I-25 interchange to keep up with economic and regional growth of the northern Front Range.

The requested \$40 million from CDOT's SB 1/SB 267 program to kick-start the first phase of SH 119 corridor improvements would supplement approximately \$50 million in current local commitments. This would help close the gap toward the \$225 million in total project costs to fully implement SH 119 multi-modal and highway safety improvements. Supporting the \$30 million requested for SH 7 also allows the necessary preliminary environmental and engineering work to advance for the corridor. Further, this funding would move the SH 7/I-25 interchange improvement forward before it reaches an anticipated "failing level of service" in the next 10 years.

We need your support for improving our transportation system to sustain the economic vitality of our region and the contributions it makes to the rest of the state. Thank you for your consideration of this input and please contact us if there are questions you have regarding the specific mobility for our region's businesses.

**John L. Tayer**  
President & CEO  
Boulder Chamber



**Sam Taylor**  
President & CEO  
Broomfield Chamber  
of Commerce



**Vicki Trumbo**  
Executive Director  
Lafayette Chamber  
of Commerce



**Peter Salas**  
Board of Directors  
Latino Chamber  
Boulder County



**Scott Cook**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Longmont Area  
Chamber of Commerce



**Shelley Angell**  
Executive Officer  
Louisville  
Chamber of Commerce



**TJ Sullivan**  
Executive Director  
Superior Chamber  
of Commerce



### **About the Northwest Chamber Alliance**

The Northwest Chamber Alliance was formed in 2016 as a coalition focused on regional issues that impact economic vitality and quality of life. It is currently comprised of the Boulder Chamber, Broomfield Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Latino Chamber, Louisville Chamber of Commerce, Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce, and Superior Chamber of Commerce, representing approximately 3,600 businesses and 370,000 employees. These businesses range from large international corporations to small businesses, startups, nonprofits and public institutions. For more information on the NWCA, please contact Andrea Meneghel, Public Affairs Director for the Boulder Chamber, (303) 938-2077 or [andrea.meneghel@boulderchamber.com](mailto:andrea.meneghel@boulderchamber.com).