

January 28, 2015

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
U.S. House of Representatives
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter,

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce would like to convey its support of the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) request for an appropriation for the Eagle P3 Project in the Fiscal Year 2016 Administration budget submittal.

RTD is requesting \$167 million for continued property acquisition, utility relocation, fabrication of rolling stock, and construction on the elements of the Eagle P3 project. The \$167 million consists of the \$150 million scheduled for Fiscal Year 2016 in the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA), plus restoration of shortfalls from previous fiscal years.

The federal Eagle P3 Project includes East Rail Line, Gold Line, and the percentage of the Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility (CRMF) needed to operate and maintain the East and Gold Lines.

The East Rail Line is a 22.8-mile long electrified commuter rail line that will operate between the hub of the FasTracks system at Denver Union Station in downtown Denver, Colorado, and travel east to Denver International Airport (DIA). The Gold Line is a 7.4-mile long electrified commuter rail line that will operate between Denver Union Station and travel west to Ward Road in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

The CRMF will serve four FasTracks commuter rail corridors—Gold and East Lines, Northwest Rail, and North Metro Rail Line—and is needed to repair, maintain, clean, fuel, operate, and store the FasTracks commuter rail fleet. The FFGA will only be applied to the 50 percent of the CRMF needed to support the East and Gold Lines.

Significant population and employment growth is forecast for the metropolitan area, creating major burdens on both the highways and arterials in the area. The Eagle P3 commuter rail project will help address this problem and also serve a substantial number of low-income, minority, and non-vehicle households that are transit-dependent by providing access to employment opportunities in downtown Denver, as well as to cities along the lines, and the Denver International Airport.

The economic impact to the Denver metro area is also significant. Up to September 2014, RTD and its contractors have provided more than 5,200 direct jobs and invested more than \$1.04 billion into our local economy. The commitment to local contractors also extends to the Workforce Initiative Now program, as well as Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

Your assistance in securing this level of funding for the Eagle P3 Project is appreciated. The citizens and businesses who will be served by this project will appreciate your continuing efforts to further the build-out of Denver's rail system and for your continued support of efforts to alleviate traffic congestion in the metropolitan area.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Brough

President and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce