

October 13th, 2024

Mike Johnston, Mayor of Denver
City of Denver
437 Bannock Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202

2025 Budget Amendments

Dear Mayor Mike Johnston and Denver City Council members,

Greater Denver Transit (GDT) writes in support of two proposed budget amendments, which are both in line with two of the Council's stated budget priorities, specifically:

- Treat climate change as an emergency. Protect our natural environment through action and investment. Mitigate harm in areas of environmental injustice.
- Create complete and safe multimodal transportation connections. Improve Denver's infrastructure. Reduce traffic deaths by 25% by the end of 2025.

Require DEN to Fund the A-Line Study

This amendment rights the current course of Denver International Airport's (DEN) current Peña Boulevard Transportation and Mobility Master Plan development process. Despite stated aims to "promote a shift to more sustainable modes", "enhance safety", "reduce crashes" and "address equity and barriers to opportunity", the existing alternatives proposed by DEN plan for a future with an expanded highway and no improvements to the adjacent rail line. GDT believes this failure in vision does a disservice to future generations that will be forced to live with worsening congestion, air pollution and CO2 emissions.

While not pre-determining any specific outcome, Councilmember Parady's amendment would require that DEN study both transit and highway improvements to determine which solutions best meet our future mobility and sustainability needs. While we share concerns regarding the current state of RTD, the Pena Corridor Mobility Plan will determine how millions more passengers travel in 2040 and beyond. It is crucial we plan for the sustainable transportation system we desire, not one that is based on and merely supports the status quo.

The proposed amendment provides an opportunity to fully examine measures that could reduce car dependency on Peña Boulevard, ensure the sustainability of transportation in the region, and help the crown jewel of our transit system thrive and further serve the region.

Require DEN to provide \$3m in funding for its Transportation Demand Management Plan

DEN has frequently cited its Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan in order to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and mode shift. However, as DEN proceeds with planning for its \$500 million highway expansion, the TDM plan remains largely unfunded. GDT strongly believes that funding of a strong TDM plan should be decoupled from the planned Peña Boulevard expansion. TDM should not be held contingent on a highway expansion that will itself undermine the goals of mode shift. Indeed, it is possible that implementing robust TDM could allow DEN to scale back its expensive highway expansion plans.

GDT hopes that all City Council members will consider backing these valuable budget amendments that will help put Denver on a path to a sustainable and environmentally responsible future.

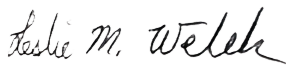
Thanks for all you do,



James Flattum



Richard Bamber



Leslie Welch



Emma Griffin