

**Regional Transportation District**

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May 12, 2009

The Honorable Mike Coffman  
US House of Representatives  
1508 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative *Mike* Coffman:

As Congress prepares to work on the authorization of a new transportation bill to succeed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU), on behalf of the RTD, I would like to convey our support for federal investment in the Southeast Corridor Extension as a High Priority Project. The Southeast Corridor Extension is a critical component of RTD's FasTracks program, one of the nation's most successful examples of what mass transit will do to improve the quality of life, environment, and energy efficiency of a region.

The Southeast Corridor Extension is a 2.3-mile light rail line that will improve the region's public transit infrastructure and network by providing service from the existing Southeast Corridor light rail terminus at I-25/Lincoln to rapidly-developing Douglas County and Lone Tree, medical facilities, and the RidgeGate mixed-use development. It will increase the number of trips on transit in the highly congested I-25 travel corridor, intercepting regional travelers off the roadway system sooner.

RTD's financing plan ensures that construction will be underway during the period of the new authorizing legislation. The total estimated cost of the Southeast Corridor Extension is \$184.3 million. RTD's request for \$147.4 million is therefore 80 percent of the total project cost. Local funding for the Southeast Corridor Extension was approved by the voters of the RTD in November 2004 as part of the vote approving FasTracks financing.

RTD has committed to performing a NEPA-level environmental study on all corridors, and the Southeast Corridor Extension is no exception. With public review and input, the final Environmental Evaluation product will be a successful study that will lay the foundation for the ultimate configuration of the Southeast Corridor Extension.

The Southeast Corridor Extension is a critical component of the FasTracks system, one of the nation's most successful examples of what mass transit can do to improve the quality of life, environment, and energy efficiency of a region. The project has my full support.

Sincerely,

Clarence W. Marsella  
General Manager and CEO



cc: Representative Diana DeGette  
Representative Jared Polis  
Representative John Salazar  
Representative Betsy Markay  
Representative Doug Lamborn  
Representative Ed Perlmutter