



## *Broomfield City Council Training and Travel Report*

**Elected Official Name:** Patrick Quinn

**Date of Travel or Training:** February 14, 15, 16, 2012

**Description of Travel or Training:** Annually the mayors and commissioners along US 36 (US 36 MCC) have traveled to Washington D. C. to advocate that the Federal government participate in the funding of improvements to US 36. In previous years the US 36 MCC has secured \$10 million in TIGER funding which, along with over \$50 million in US Department Of Transportation TIFIA loans. These funds became the cornerstone to \$305 million in funding for US 36 improvements for which construction will begin this year. Scheduled improvements include construction of managed lanes for Bus Rapid Transit from Pecos to Interlocken and bridge improvements.

With funding for Phase I secured, the purpose of this trip was to lobby for TIFIA financing for Phase II. Accompanying the US 36 mayors and commissioners were representatives from CDOT, RTD and HPTE. During this trip we met with members of our Congressional delegation, other key members in Congress employees of the US Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration.

See Debra Baskett's report for this trip attached.

**Total Amount Expended:** \$1,279.40  
(include airfare, hotel, registration, and **all** other reimbursements)

**How this Travel or Training Benefitted the Citizens of Broomfield:**

US 36 is a key transportation corridor for Broomfield. The future of our economic development is dependent on multi modal improvements to the corridor as defined in the US 36 Final Environmental Impact Statement dated December 2009. The City and County of Broomfield believes that funding for this strategic project should come from a multitude of sources including the Federal Government, Colorado Department of Transportation, RTD and Denver Regional Council of Governments. To secure Federal funding the US 36 MCC has traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for the project.

**Trip Report for US 36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition meetings in Washington, DC**

**February 15 and 16, 2012**

Mayor Pat Quinn Debra Baskett Broomfield	Mayor Matt Appelbaum Tracy Winfree City of Boulder	Commissioner Will Tour George Gerstle Boulder County	Mayor Bob Muckle Heather Balser Louisville
Mayor Nancy McNally Aric Otzelberger Westminster	Beth Moyski Assistant Town Manager, Superior	Audrey DeBarros 36 Commuting Solutions	Lori Frasier Key Bank 36 Commuting Solutions
Herman Stockinger Deputy Director CDOT	Nick Farber High Performance Transportation Enterprise	Julie Skeen RTD	

Summary:

The purpose of the trip was to:

- Provide an update on US 36 to Congressional members ;
- Advocate for additional funding to complete US 36 Managed Lanes;
- Remind the delegation that we need their support on the TIFIA loan for Phase 2;
- Request assistance in dealing with the BNSF Railroad in regard to the Northwest Rail; and
- Provide Colorado input to the next Surface Transportation bill.

Meeting appointments were arranged by the US 36 Mayor and Commissioners Coalitions (MCC) by the Dutko Grayling and Boyagian Consulting, the firms with whom the MCC contracts with for federal lobbying assistance. Meetings were held with the member or staff of each member of the Colorado delegation; Coffman, Tipton, Perlmutter, Polis, Lamborn and Gardner and our two Senators; Bennet and Udall.

Additional meetings were held with the staff of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Innovative Project Delivery Team. We also met with staff from the Senate Environmental Public Works Committee.

Highlights:

The attendees met with the TIFIA staff team responsible for recommending approval of TIFIA loans to the Federal Highway Administration. The support of this team is critical to approval of a second TIFIA loan to complete the Managed Lanes to Boulder. They had praise for Phase I and noted that it is a poster child for the nation. However, they noted that TIFIA is oversubscribed with \$1B budgeted and more than \$14B in requests. The High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) of CDOT has submitted a

statement of interest for \$29M. The HPTE is optimistic about receiving a second TIFIA loan. Herman Stockinger, CDOT Deputy Director noted on this occasion and throughout the trip that US 36 and I-70 are the two projects Governor Hickenlooper expects monthly briefing and considers them to be his top transportation priorities.

#### Congressional Meetings:

- Representative Coffman's Legislative Assistant met with us. He noted that the transportation bill will not be taken up until after the recess. Coffman is in favor of increased use of tolling, and in the past has supported the ability of states to opt out of the gas tax.
- Representative Tipton's Chief of Staff noted that Mr. Tipton will be traveling to Broomfield to meet with White Wave Foods and Ball Aerospace. We offered a corridor tour.
- Congressman Perlmutter will convey to Secretary of Transportation LaHood the message that the project must be completed to Boulder and that a second TIFIA loan should be approved. We asked him for help with the Burlington Northern Railroads high capital and operations cost and the limited operations that would permit on the Northwest Rail. Mr. Perlmutter noted that his transportation priorities are a spur on I-225 to Fitzsimons, US 36 and transit/highway improvements to North I-25.
- Congressman Polis directed his staff to write a letter in support of the TIFIA loan request and try to get all members of the delegation to sign on.
- Senator Udall is familiar with the project and appreciated the update on Phase 2 schedule which anticipates that the project can be completed all the way to Boulder by mid-2015.
- Senator Bennet requested a paper explaining the issues related to implementation of the Northwest Rail.