Broomfield City Council Training and Travel Report

Elected Official Name: Elizabeth Law-Evans

Date of Travel or Training: June 22, 2018

Description of Travel or Training: "Smart Commute TransForum 2018"

Total Amount Expended: $106.72
(include airfare, hotel, registration, and **all** other reimbursements)

How this Travel or Training Benefited the Citizens of Broomfield:

The presentations at this forum were all about "connected" and "autonomous" vehicles that are in development, along with the infrastructure required to support them in one way or another. The general sentiment in the industry is that these types of vehicles are coming sooner rather than later. The phrase used was a "tidal wave of innovation."

The benefits of "connected" vehicles include safety (communication from vehicle to vehicle and vehicle to sensors regarding road conditions, accidents ahead, traffic ahead, etc.) and reducing congestion (VtV communication allows for more organized traffic flow, for example). Reducing congestion without building more roads is certainly a noble and worthy goal! They said that studies have shown that a 10% decrease in congestion results in a 1% increase in productivity – which is an amazing statistic, that one single change can have such a large increase in productivity.

Doing "something" with Colorado's roads is becoming critical. There is a huge budget shortfall in the money available for maintenance of existing roads, not to mention road improvements and projects. (Note: this has been discussed may times by many elected officials statewide. Expect more discussion and possibly a ballot initiative this fall.)

Traffic fatalities nationwide are on the rise. The safety improvements expected with these innovations are expected to be huge, for all the reasons mentioned above.

Issues that have yet to be solved, at least in my mind, include: funding, growth, privacy and control issues, and reliability.

Overall, the presentations were very interesting, although obviously calibrated to impress and thrill, rather than presenting a straightforward list of problems to be solved, potential solutions, and pros and cons of each potential solution.