



Broomfield City Council Training and Travel Report

Elected Official Name: Patrick Quinn

Date of Travel or Training: February 12, 13, 14, 2013

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 the first phase of US 36 improvements for which construction will begin this year. Scheduled improvements include construction of managed lanes for Bus Rapid Transit (“BRT”) from Pecos to Interlocken and bridge improvements. After last year’s trip we were able to secure TIFIA financing for Phase II which is currently out for bid. Phase II will complete the managed lanes from Interlocken to completion in Boulder.

With funding for Phase II secured, the purpose of this trip was to lobby for funding of the BRT components, primarily rolling stock. 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.

Also attached is our meeting schedule.

Total Amount Expended: \$1,317.68
(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.

US 36 Mayors and Commissioners
Washington, DC. Advocacy Trip
February 12-14, 2013

Purpose of Trip:

To meet with Congressional Members and their staff, representatives of the Federal Transit Administration and TIFIA, and other key congressional staff members to advocate for continued funding for US 36 and support for communication with railroads regarding Northwest Rail.

Attendees:

Mayor Pat Quinn and Debra Baskett
Westminster Mayor Nancy McNally and Aric Otzelberger
Superior Mayor Pro-tem Joe Cirelli and Beth Moyski
Louisville Mayor Bob Muckle and Heather Balsler
City of Boulder Mayor Matt Appelbaum and Tracy Winfree
Boulder County Commissioner Elise Jones and George Gerstle
RTD Assistant General Manager for Planning Bill VanMeter
High Performance Transportation Enterprise staff Nick Farber

Messages:

- Construction of the US 36 Express Lanes Project from Pecos to 88th Street is underway, open to public January 2015
- Phase Two construction to Foothills Parkway is planned to continue seamlessly and estimated to open 4th Quarter 2015.
- Funding is needed to acquire Bus Rapid Transit vehicles.
- The RTD Northwest Area Mobility Study will soon be underway to sort out next steps for mobility in the north and northwest metro area. Support is needed to reopen conversations with BNSF railroad. Help is needed in longer term to move railroads east of the metro area.
- Support is needed to ease Federal restrictions and costs for Quiet Zone implementation.

Meetings With:

Representative Ed Perlmutter
Senator Mark Udall
Senator Michael Bennet
Representative Cory Gardner
Representative Jared Polis
Representative Diane DeGette
Jeff Small, Legislative Assistant to Representative Tipton
Heideh Shahmoradi, Clerk, Senate Transportation Appropriations Committee
Homer Carlisle, Senate Banking Committee
Jim Tymon, Senior Advisor to the Chairman for Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
Dan Ziegler, Legislative Director for Representative Lamborn
TIFIA Federal Loan program staff
Federal Transit Administration staff
Jim Kolb, Staff Director House Committee on Highways and Transit
Stephen Beck, Legislative Assistant to Representative Coffman

What we heard:

- Acknowledgement of the strength and staying power of the US 36 MCC.
- Bus fleets may be eligible for TIFIA loans.
- Representative Perlmutter is ready to turn his attention to US 36 now that I-225 is funded.
- Sequestration is considered a very real possibility. If President Obama and Congress can't come together to prevent sequestration, automatic budget cuts will automatically start taking effect March 1. Under sequestration, an amount of money equal to the difference between the cap set in the Budget Resolution and the amount actually appropriated is 'sequestered' by the Treasury and not handed over to the agencies to which it was originally appropriated by Congress.
- The reauthorization process for the next Federal transportation bill will begin late this year. The current bill, MAP 21, runs for two years and has less funding than the previous bill. The bill eliminates earmarks and distributes formula funds to state DOTs that must then distribute them for specific categories of projects.
- Using Vehicle Mile Traveled fees are not on the radar screen to change/increase the way transportation is paid for.
- A hearing had just happened where the head of the US Chamber of Commerce supported increasing the gas tax and was met with opposition. Indexing the gas tax may meet with some support.
- Senators Bennet and Udall have already sent a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration in regard to the train horn rule that governs Quiet Zones.
- Representative Polis shared that another round of federal TIGER funding is possible in 2013. This provided the \$10M in funding that was leveraged for the first phase of the US 36 Express Lanes Project. It could be possible to seek funding for buses from this source.
- The TIFIA office has received letters of interest for I-70 East (a \$2B project to replace the viaduct), I-25 North (Managed lanes from 120th to Fort Collins), and C-470 managed lanes.

Washington, DC Meetings for Highway 36 Coalition

Tuesday February 12, 2013

7:00pm Dinner at Clyde's
707 7th St NW

Wednesday February 13, 2013

8:15am Pre-Meeting at Meyers and Associates Conference Room
412 First St SE, Suite #1

9:30am Jeff Small (Legislative Assistant)
Rep. Tipton
218 Cannon

10:30am Rep. Ed Perlmutter
1410 Longworth

11:00am Heideh Shahmoradi (Clerk, Senate Transportation Appropriations, Minority)
142 Dirksen

12:00pm Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart

1:00pm Homer Carlisle (Professional Staff)
Senate Banking Committee
534 Dirksen

2:00pm Senator Michael Bennet
458 Russell

3:30pm Jim Tymon (Senior Advisor to the Chairman, Staff Director)
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
2165 Rayburn

4:00pm Dan Ziegler (Legislative Director)
Rep. Lamborn
2402 Rayburn

4:30pm Rep. Cory Gardner
213 Cannon

5:30pm Rep. Jared Polis
1433 Longworth

7:00pm Dinner at Matchbox
713 H St NW

Thursday February 14th, 2013

8:30am Pre-Meeting at Dutko Grayling Offices
100 M St SE Suite 500

10:00am TIFIA Meeting, Office of Innovative Program Delivery
1200 New Jersey Ave SE

10:00am Therese W. McMillan (Deputy Administrator)
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE

11:45am Rep. DeGette (Eleanor Bastian staffing)
2368 Rayburn

1:00pm Jim Kolb (Staff Director, Minority)
House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
B-375 Rayburn

1:30pm Stephen Beck, Legislative Assistant
Rep. Coffman
2443 Rayburn