

U.S. 36 Mayor & Commissioners Coalition (MCC)

February 2, 2010

Boulder County

City of Boulder

*City & County of
Broomfield*

City of Louisville

Town of Superior

City of Westminster

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The U.S. 36 Mayors & Commissioners Coalition supports RTD's efforts to improve transit service along the U.S. 36 corridor through the Bus Livability Program grant application. The U.S. 36 application would provide up to twenty Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Vehicles, building upon BRT infrastructure RTD will complete in May 2010.

The U.S. 36 corridor is economically diverse and home to nearly half of Colorado's federal laboratories and research centers. Supporting industries range from commercial freight companies to renewable energy and aerospace. The U.S. 36 corridor provides access to 17% of the region's businesses and employment.

Full development of the U.S. 36 BRT project will provide improved mobility, connectivity, expanded livability and sustainability benefits by reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. BRT transit will see up to 25-min. of travel time savings as a result of this project. Near-term transit ridership is forecasted to increase by 26% and is expected to double by 2035.

Receipt of these grant funds is critical to realize U.S. 36 project's livability goals that would not otherwise be possible. These funds are additionally important as our region struggles with financing the full vision of FasTracks, which is critical to the future growth and viability of the Denver region.

The U.S. 36 Mayors & Commissioners Coalition strongly supports RTD's application for Bus Rapid Transit vehicles such