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February 5, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Letter of Support for U.S. 36 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Bus Procurement**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) supports the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) efforts to improve transit service along the U.S. 36 corridor. 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.

Full development of the U.S. 36 BRT project will provide improved mobility, connectivity, and livability for residents and workers in the area. It will produce sustainability benefits by reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The U.S. 36 BRT project is a component of RTD's FasTracks rapid transit system, which was approved by voters in 2004 and is reviewed annually by DRCOG. This project is contained in the Fiscally Constrained 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Additionally, DRCOG's current Transportation Improvement Program contains funding for related infrastructure investments.

Receipt of these grant funds is critical to realize the livability tenets and sustainability goals of DRCOG's Metro Vision Plan. These funds are especially 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.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Schaufele  
Executive Director

*Enhancing and protecting the quality of life in our region*