



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

Date: 07/02/14

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

Re: Meeting with Representative Shuster

COMMISSIONER KIRKMEYER AND NORTH I-25 COALITION MEMBERS ADDRESS CORRIDOR ISSUES WITH LEGISLATORS

WELD COUNTY, CO – Weld County Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer, along with fellow members of the North I-25 Coalition, requested House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster consider including the North I-25 Corridor project in the reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Bill.



Weld County Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer (right) speaks to (from left) Representatives Mike Coffman, Cory Gardner and Representative Bill Shuster. Also pictured (front from left) are Coalition members Loveland City Councilwoman Joan Shaffer, Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce President David May and Carbon Valley Chamber of Commerce President Bill Meier.

Joan Shaffer who listed the numerous companies in northern Colorado that distribute goods via I-25 including FedEx, UPS, Budweiser and Walmart.

Congressman Shuster agreed about the importance of the freight corridor system. "We really need to focus on these corridors," Shuster said. "We need to focus on this so America can stay competitive."

Shuster, who was accompanied at the meeting by Congressman Cory Gardner and Congressman Mike Coffman, was appreciative of the work the coalition has done to date. "I see you are working together and that is critical," Shuster said. "The other thing you are doing is taking matters into your own hands."

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The request, which was made during a meeting held in Denver Tuesday, included a presentation outlining the importance of allowing this corridor to compete for funding.

"During the flood last September, we saw our future," said Kirkmeyer. "I-25 was our only north/south roadway open at one point, and for three weeks, traffic on that road was at a standstill." Kirkmeyer also pointed out that the current lifespan of the corridor is 10 years and that CDOT isn't able to address improvements to the corridor until the year 2075.

"I-25 is considered a Highway of National Significance and part of the Freight Mobility Network," continued Kirkmeyer. "We aren't asking you to fund this project. We are asking for it to be in the reauthorization, because we believe we can compete."

The use of I-25 as a crucial part of the statewide and national freight system was also emphasized by North I-25 Coalition Vice Chairman and Loveland City Councilwoman