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PRESS RELEASE

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I-25 COALITION MEETS WITH GARDNER TO DISCUSS CONCERNS WITH CDOT PLANS FOR CORRIDOR

WELD COUNTY, CO – Members of the North I-25 Coalition met with Congressman Cory Gardner Tuesday, February 18, to discuss the importance of including the corridor in the reauthorization of the 2014 Federal Transportation bill.



From left: Weld Commissioner Sean Conway, Evans Mayor Lyle Achziger representing the North Front Range MPO, Congressman Cory Gardner, Upstate President Eric Berglund and Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer, along with other members of the North I-25 Coalition meeting with the Congressman Tuesday, February 18.

“Northern Colorado is the economic engine for Colorado,” said Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway during the meeting. “The growth in Colorado is occurring in Northern Colorado.”

Members of the Coalition, which includes representation from each of the communities along the corridor from Thornton to Fort Collins, expressed their deep concerns with the Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) proposed improvement plan for the corridor which includes taking a current free lane and converting it into a toll lane in order to accumulate the revenue needed to make improvements to the highway by the year 2075.

“Weld County and communities along the southern portion of I-25 gave up funding for other projects years ago in order to put money into improvements on I-25,” said Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer. “Now CDOT wants to punish our taxpayers for their foresight by taking a lane they already paid for and converting it into a managed lane.”

The Coalition’s concern that CDOT is not putting the needed emphasis on this corridor was expressed repeatedly during the Tuesday meeting with the Congressman. “Our residents, and the traveling public, should not have to wait 63 years for improvements to this highway,” said Commissioner Mike Freeman.

“We just want to be able to compete for funds for this corridor,” said Kirkmeyer, who also serves as the Chair of the Coalition. “Having this corridor in the reauthorization will put us in the position to do that.”

Gardner agreed with the concerns brought forth by the group and said he will initiate discussions in Washington D.C. regarding including this corridor in the transportation bill. “At a time when the I-25 corridor has seen its traffic population grow by more than 425 percent over the past 20 years, it is now more important than ever to ensure that Northern Colorado has the infrastructure to support our evolving economy. Local officials have estimated that the outdated interstate system has cost the area 56 million dollars, proof that it is far past time to address this issue.

“I encourage state and federal officials to realize that commonsense solutions for the interstate problems in Northern Colorado will benefit the entire state as Colorado continues to lead in areas such as manufacturing, agriculture, energy development, and technology,” said Gardner.

The North I-25 Coalition is made up of members from Adams, Larimer and Weld Counties as well as the communities of Berthoud, Broomfield, Dacono, Erie, Firestone, Fort Collins, Frederick, Johnstown, Loveland, Mead, Northglenn, Timnath, Thornton and Windsor.

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