



NORTHERN COLORADO CHALLENGES CDOT DECISION ON NORTH I-25

North I25 Coalition and Legislators sent letters to Governor Polis and the Transportation Commission

to reconsider the Decision to Not Pursue IIJA Mega Grant Funding for North I25

The NCLA's Fix North I-25 Business Alliance, the North I-25 Coalition and 16 State Legislators representing Larimer, Weld and Adams County sent letters this week to the Colorado Transportation Commission, the Governor Jared Polis and CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew expressing dismay at the apparent decision not to pursue federal MEGA grant funding for the North I-25 Corridor available from the passage of the massive federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The [Alliance and Coalition letter](#) notes, "The North I-25 multi-modal corridor — stretching from north of Fort Collins south through the North Metro suburbs of Thornton and Northglenn — serves as the spine of Colorado's Front Range, the essential national multimodal freight corridor linking interstate commerce, and is a critical national defense asset. It substantially serves as the economic connector of Colorado's fastest-growing region - northern Colorado".

The groups expressed concerns of safety along the corridor specifically that "upon completion of Segments 6, 7, and 8 of North I-25, and without a financial commitment to fund and complete the outstanding elements of the entire stretch of the corridor, namely Segment 5 (Johnstown to Mead) and Segment 2 (Hwy 128 to US 36), the corridor will be a hodgepodge of roadway and safety conditions that will present significant safety concerns and gaps in roadway capacity, trip reliability, and flow. The Coalition and the Alliance asked for reconsideration of the decision and an inquiry into the decision-making process regarding what criteria were used to make the decision to not include I-25 among federal grant applicants.

Legislators serving the communities affected by the North I-25 corridor delivered a letter to the Governor and CDOT Director Lew amplifying the call for reconsideration of the decision. The legislators, including the Senate Majority Leader and House Minority Leader, highlighted the importance of North I-25, conveying that the "corridor is the backbone and lifeblood of the Northern Colorado region. It is the intrastate connection between the north, south, east, and west of Colorado. And, critically, it is the interstate connection to the rest of the country. We are grateful for the significant investment in the North I-25 Express Lanes Project in recent years. Our work is not done, however, and the entire project is far from complete."

To the corridor being excluded from the grant funds, legislators who signed the letter exclaimed, "We are very disappointed to learn that North I-25 is not presently among the projects that CDOT will pursue a Mega Program Grant. For the health and safety of our constituents, we implore you to reconsider that decision".

In urging the Governor, the Transportation Commission and the CDOT Director to include North I-25 among the IJJA Mega Program Grant applicants, the NCLA believes CDOT should avail itself of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to supplement, enhance or fund this critical, nationally significant freight interstate corridor on the national highway system.

The [Legislative Delegation letter](#) was signed by the entire bi-partisan delegation of legislators representing the region encompassing Larimer, Weld and Adams counties. The legislators who signed on include: Senator Majority Leader Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City) with Senators John Cooke (R-Greeley), Joann Ginal (D-Fort Collins), Kevin Priola (R-Henderson), Rob Woodward (R-Loveland), and Barb Kirkmeyer (R-Dacono). House Minority Leader Hugh McKean (R-Loveland) was joined by Representatives Andrew Boesnecker (D-Fort Collins), Cathy Kipp (D-Fort Collins), Mary Young (D-Greeley), Tonya VanBeber (R-Eaton), Mike Lynch (R-Wellington), Dan Woog (R-Erie), Dafna Michaelsen-Jenet (D-Adams County) Kyle Mullica (D-Thornton),

Final Visit this Legislative Session from the Northern Colorado Legislative Delegation

The NCLA Board has met virtually monthly with members of the Northern Colorado Legislative Delegation throughout the 2022 Legislative Session. During the final visit of the session, the Board shared concerns with the legislators about [HB1351](#) regarding a Temporary Reduction of Road User Charges and [SB193](#) regarding Air Quality Improvement Investments, which awaits the House Appropriations Committee. The Board relayed the support for various workforce measures that are making their way through the legislative process, these included [SB 192](#)-Opportunities For Credential Attainment, [HB 1349](#)-, Postsecondary Student Success Data System, and [HB 1350](#)- Regional Talent Development Initiative Grant Program.

NCLA Positions on Priority Legislation

Labor

[HB22-1367. Updates To Employment Discrimination Laws \(POWR 2.0\)](#)- OPPOSE amends employment the Colorado Anti-discrimination Act or CADA, to expand the definition of employee to include domestic service workers and extends the time limit to file a charge with the Colorado civil rights commission to 300 days and repeals the prohibition of age discrimination. While this introduced version of the POWR Act is better than the first version, the Board still feels this legislation would hinder employers.

[SB22-204. Repeal Federal Government Confirm Status For Identification Documents](#)- MONITOR

Environment/Air Quality

[HB22-1362. Building Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)- OPPOSE – The bill requires the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to create model code language for electric and solar-ready code, low energy and carbon code, and green code language by January 2025. Municipalities are required to adopt and enforce the energy code that meets the CEO language by January 2030. The Board noted these codes should be under local control and this legislation is overreaching. The bill does create two primary grant programs and includes a significant fiscal note. The Board also expressed concern about the impacts this will have on affordable housing with the state mandating local building codes.

Workforce

[HB22-1366](#). Improving Students' Postsecondary Options - NO POSITION

Local Government

[HB22-1363](#). Accountability To Taxpayers Special Districts- OPPOSE – The bill modifies special district governing statutes and the Board noted the reporting requirements will drive costs up for Metro Districts, and will not help people in Metro Districts. Recognizing there have been a handful of problematic metro districts, that is not how the majority of the 1,819 metro districts operate.

Agriculture.

[SB22-199](#). Native Pollinating Insects Protection Study - MONITOR

NCLA Tracking Report

On a bi-weekly basis, the NCLA Board reviews and considers its position on pending legislation. See the [NCLA 2022 Legislative Tracking Report](#) list the measures thus far introduced that the NCLA is monitoring and upon which the NCLA will or has taken a position.