



**COLORADO**

Department of Transportation

2000 South Holly  
Denver, CO 80222

**DATE: March 7, 2018**

**TO: Transportation Commission**

**FROM: Paul Jesaitis, R1 Transportation Director**

**SUBJECT: 1601 Approval Request, I-70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Interchange Access Modification**

As presented and discussed during the Transportation Commission workshop in January, interchange modifications at I-70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. have need studied and determined to be an improvement to existing conditions, now and in the future. CDOT Region 1 staff have reviewed and approved the System Level Study, and request Transportation Commission 1601 approval of the submitted Resolution.

Improvements at I70 and 32nd Ave. were first identified and requested by the City of Wheat Ridge in 2005, and the series of studies at the time were approved in concert with CDOT and FHWA. The City now requests these same improvements to be phased, and the improvements in this “phase” are logical.

A few additional approvals/documents are needed and will be completed prior to issuance of the permit to construct by CDOT Region 1, as identified in the proposed resolution. Please provide 1601 approval by the attached resolution, and direct any questions or comments to Steve Sherman of Region 1.

March 15, 2018

For: Transportation Commission of Colorado

From: Steve Sherman, CDOT Region 1

Resolution Number TC-

WHEREAS, in November 2004 the Transportation Commission approved revisions to Policy Directive 1601 concerning the state highway interchange approval process; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheat Ridge has completed a System Level Study for proposed modifications to the interchange at I70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Policy Directive 1601, the staff of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has reviewed the Systems Level Study and found it to be consistent with the Policy Directive 1601; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Policy Directive 1601, the Systems Level Study documents the need for the proposed Interchange modifications at I70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave to accommodate anticipated travel volumes at acceptable levels of service for the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the proposed interchange modifications will improve access to local streets, improve I-70 operations in the WB direction, and improve traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, the cost to construct the proposed Interchange is estimated to be \$9.5 million in 2018 dollars; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheat Ridge is funding 100 percent of the construction of the Interchange at I70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave and is requesting no financial support or in-kind assistance from CDOT for these efforts beyond current maintenance commitments; and

WHEREAS, all costs and responsibilities associated with project maintenance and operations shall be determined through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Wheat Ridge and CDOT consistent with the financial plan in this Systems Level Study; and

WHEREAS, approval of the Final Maintenance and Operations IGA by the Chief Engineer consistent with the financial plan included in the Systems Level Study is necessary prior to construction; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Policy Directive 1601, the City of Wheat Ridge was an active participant in the System Level Study and is in agreement with the proposed project and financial plan as described in the System Level Study; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Commission approval of the Systems Level Study is contingent upon CDOT and FHWA approval of the Re-Evaluation of the original I70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) NEPA documents from 2006 and 2007, respectively, for this project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is included in DRCOG fiscally constrained regional transportation plan and transportation improvement program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheat Ridge must obtain approval of the applicable FHWA interchange access request, design and environmental decision documents by the CDOT Chief Engineer and/or FHWA prior to final approval via the CDOT permitting system; and

WHEREAS, the applicant must demonstrate significant progress towards implementation of the project within 3 years of the date of approval this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

The Transportation Commission approves the Systems Level Study for the Interchange Improvements at I70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave pending:

1. Completion and approval of the NEPA re-evaluation of previous environmental documents for I70 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave; and
2. Approval of applicable Interchange Access Request, design, and permitting documents by the appropriate agencies, including FHWA and CDOT staff; and
3. Approval by the Chief Engineer of an IGA for the financing, construction, maintenance and operations of the facilities associated with the construction of the Interchange consistent with the Systems Level Study.
4. Issuance of a permit from Region 1 Permits for work within CDOT ROW.