



SAFE SPEEDS FOR DENVER

May 1, 2018

Office of the Mayor
1437 N Bannock St., Rm 350
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mayor Hancock,

We, the undersigned, are writing to request a commitment of \$5 million toward transportation and mobility improvements along Federal Boulevard in the City's 2019 Budget. This investment is urgently needed to address major safety concerns and prevent further loss of life on this corridor that has a traffic fatality rate twenty times the average for an urban street in Colorado. Conditions are particularly dangerous for people traveling by foot - since 2012, 21 people have died while walking on Federal Boulevard, including seven in 2017.

Twenty-six percent of Denver residents live in neighborhoods along Federal Boulevard, and the corridor has the second highest bus ridership in the entire RTD system. Yet the highway-like design of Federal Boulevard creates extremely hazardous conditions for residents and transit riders just trying to access schools, local businesses, parks, cultural destinations, social service providers, and other daily destinations along the corridor. Denver's Vision Zero Action Plan further identifies many of the neighborhoods along Federal Boulevard as "Communities of Concern" – areas with low income and education levels, high concentrations of seniors and people with disabilities, low rates of vehicle ownership, and high obesity rates. In other words, this dangerous arterial cuts through neighborhoods populated by some of Denver's most vulnerable residents.

The City's recently completed Federal Boulevard Corridor Plan identifies strategies the City could begin implementing immediately to make Federal a safer place where residents and businesses can thrive. These include traffic calming measures such as the following:

- Raised, planted medians that limit dangerous turning motions and slow traffic
- Pedestrian median refuges that shorten crossing distances and provide people walking a safe place to wait half-way across the street
- High-visibility mid-block crossing opportunities for people walking and biking that connect important destinations
- Reduced corner radii that slow turning vehicles and increase pedestrian space

We greatly appreciate the "One Federal Boulevard" task force the City convened to coordinate safety improvement efforts among Denver Public Works, the Denver Police Department, and the Colorado Department of Transportation. We are further pleased the City is already undertaking specific actions, including signal and lighting improvements, as well as complete reconstruction of the street between 5th Avenue and Holden.



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Given the scale of the problem - building out the full Federal Boulevard Corridor Plan will likely cost hundreds of millions of dollars - a significant increase in funding for this corridor is essential for accelerating current efforts and ultimately achieving the City's goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries by the year 2030. While we understand this funding must come from a variety of sources, \$5 million in the 2019 City Budget would represent a meaningful commitment by the City, and would help expand the geographic focus of current implementation efforts to additional segments of the corridor. The One Federal Boulevard task force, working in partnership with community stakeholders, is well positioned to guide the allocation of this funding to specific projects that will have the greatest impact on safety along the corridor.

If you any any questions about our request, please contact Jill Locantore at jill.locantore@walkdenver.org or 303-895-6376.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jill Locantore
Executive Director, WalkDenver
Chair, Denver Vision Zero Coalition

Jaime Estrada
President, Harvey Park Community
Organization (HPCO)

Piep van Heuven
Denver Director, Bicycle Colorado
Chair, Denver Streets Partnership

Jo Ann Phillips
President, Villa Park Neighborhood
Association

True Nguyen
President, Vietnamese American
Community of Colorado

Kaye Kavanagh
President, Community Coalition of Barnum

Maureen McCanna
President, Valverde RNO

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Ken Knoblock
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Ihor Figlus
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Leanne Kerber
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Dan Shah
Executive Director, West Colfax Business
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Leslie Twarogowski
Executive Director, Federal Boulevard
Business Improvement District

Sue Scherer
Associate Vice President, Community
Collaboration, Regis University

James Waddell
Executive Director, BikeDenver

Danny Katz
Director, CoPIRG (Colorado Public Interest
Research Group)

Jeffrey Su
Executive Director, Mile High Connects

cc: Council Member Debbie Ortega, At- Large
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