



Mayor Mike Johnston  
City and County of Denver  
1437 Bannock Street, Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202

**October 12, 2023**

Dear Mayor Johnston,

We, the Denver Streets Partnership and the undersigned organizations, are writing to ask you to ensure that expansion of transit service to Denver International Airport is considered as a core alternative in the Peña Boulevard Transportation and Mobility Master Plan.

Currently DEN is considering only three core alternatives in its study—do nothing, adding managed lanes to Pena Blvd or adding frontage roads to Pena Blvd. DEN has refused to consider a transit first alternative which could include double tracking the A-line and improving bus routes. San Francisco International Airport fully funded a BART rail extension under similar circumstances. Excluding transit from this planning process is unacceptable, especially given our city's climate and mobility goals. We urge you to take action as soon as possible to ensure a fair and comprehensive outcome.

Failing to consider expanded transit as a core alternative in the planning process all but predetermines the outcome that Peña Boulevard will be widened. The Peña Boulevard Transportation and Mobility Master Plan should explore transit alternatives including:

- Increased bus service to Denver International Airport,
- Lower fares for transit service to Denver International Airport,
- And, A-Line upgrades, such as longer trains to increase capacity and double-tracking to increase frequency.

Further, the study should include

- Consideration of alternative ways to utilize existing capacity on E-470, including transit,
- As well as smarter, transit oriented land-use at the airport, such as Focusing long-term airport parking at the 40th / Airport Station on the A Line that completely removes cars from Pena Blvd and placing the future consolidated rental car facility (CONRAC) directly adjacent to the already-planned future 72nd & Himalaya A Line station to avoid having to run shuttle buses specifically for car rentals all day.

We appreciate that in August your spokesperson told the Denver Post that you are “waiting to assess the study results” prior to weighing in on a Peña Boulevard expansion. However, we believe that a study that fails to consider transit improvements is fatally flawed. We urge you to take action as soon as possible to ensure a fair and comprehensive process.

With the right investments, taking public transit to Denver International Airport can be the most convenient, dependable option for thousands more travelers and workers—but only if transit is considered in the planning process. Before Denver is committed to a highway expansion that will cost millions while increasing vehicle trips, greenhouse gas emissions, and ozone pollution, we urge you to step in and ensure that the above are considered in the alternatives analysis in the Peña Boulevard Transportation and Mobility Master Plan.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

Jill Locantore  
Executive Director, Denver Streets Partnership

Stephanie Puello  
Board Member, Bicycle Colorado

Jaime Lewis  
Transit Advisor, Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

Danny Katz  
Executive Director, CoPIRG

Rob Toftness  
Co-founder, Denver Bicycle Lobby

James Flattum  
Co-founder, Greater Denver Transit

Ed Callahan  
Leadership Council, Strong Towns Denver

Ryan Keeney  
President, YIMBY Denver

Cc: City Council President Jamie Torres  
City Council President Pro Tem Amanda Sandoval  
City Council Member Kevin Flynn  
City Council Member Diana Romero-Campbell  
City Council Member Amanda Sawyer  
City Council Member Paul Kashmann  
City Council Member Flor Alvidrez  
City Council Member Shontel Lewis  
City Council Member Darrell Watson  
City Council Member Chris Hinds  
City Council Member Stacie Gilmore  
City Council Member Sarah Parady  
City Council Member Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez  
Nick Williams  
Jen Ridder  
Matthew Ball