

# **ESTIMATED PRESENTATION TIME:**

### TITLE: Regional Highway Activities, Particularly I-25 and US Highway 34

#### SUMMARY:

This is an information item for the City Council to have an opportunity to hear from Region 4 CDOT Director Johnny Olson, and have discussion about regional highway activities, with particular emphasis on Interstate 25 and US Highway 34.

### BACKGROUND:

The City Council has been critically interested in the development of Interstate 25, especially since the completion of the North I-25 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2011. That EIS described total improvements to I-25 north of Denver which would cost over \$1.2 billion and take over sixty years to complete. Since the release of the EIS, multiple groups have formed to advocate for more rapid completion of needed improvements. These include the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance and the I-25 Elected Officials Coalition.

Two projects have been funded for accomplishment of portions of the I-25 EIS or "interim" solutions: the Crossroads Interchange project, and the Berthoud Hill climbing lane project. Additional projects and approaches to funding have been proposed, to include both local financial shares and state and/or federal funds. These other projects have not yet been solidified, but may include bridge replacements and a possible interim "third lane" in each direction on I-25. Funding source possibilities have included use of County and municipality road and bridge mill levy revenues; federal TIGER grant(s); a federal FastLane grant, and others. Legislative attempts are also being made to create a new State bond program for transportation, which might provide significant funds for North I-25.

For US Highway 34, a Highway 34 Coalition has been recently formed. Much of the recent discussion for Highway 34 centers on a possible Planning and Environmental Linkages ("PEL") Study, to examine the environmental, social and economic impacts of the highway while taking into account the surrounding communities' growth. A map of the proposed PEL Study Area is attached.

This Study Session item is intended to provide information on current approaches to both I-25 and Highway 34, and provide the Council with an opportunity to discuss these topics with the CDOT Regional Director.

## **REVIEWED BY CITY MANAGER:**

William Calul

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: US 34 PEL Study Area Map





