



City of Boulder Transportation & Mobility

September 13, 2021

Mr. Todd Cottrell, Senior Transportation Planner
Denver Regional Council of Governments
1001 17th Street, Suite 700
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Project amendment request – HOP Service Expansion project, TIP ID 2020-048

Dear Mr. Cottrell,

As city staff has discussed with you over the past year, the impacts of COVID-19 have severely impacted the transit market conditions necessary to implement the HOP Transit Service Expansion project and ensure its success. The project provides a Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) grant for three-years of operating funds (\$800,000/year; \$2.4-million total) to support service expansion. The project was initially to launch by October 2020 and received a one-year delay due to COVID-19 impacts. HOP ridership continues to trend significantly less than pre-COVID 2019 levels, and the market for expanded transit service remains uncertain for an indefinite period.

With this realization, the city remains committed to further improving HOP service and seeks a related project scope change. The city requests an amendment to allow the grant to be used for purchase of zero-emission battery electric buses for the HOP fleet. Electrifying the HOP fleet by 2030 is a city priority with regional greenhouse gas reduction benefits, and this goal is central to and supports the recommendations of the city's 2019 Transportation Master Plan, DRCOG Metro Vision 2050, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) 2045 Statewide Transit Plan. Leveraging this MMOF grant with secured Settlement, FASTER, and local match would provide the funding to purchase five (5) to six (6) battery electric buses to replace diesel HOP buses – resulting in more than 50% of the HOP fleet being zero-emission by 2023.

The requested project amendment follows:

Current project scope: Expand the HOP transit service to connect the regional transit hub at 30th and Pearl to the business parks on the east side of town.

Current project budget:

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal		\$0	\$0	\$0			
State (MMOF)		\$800	\$800	\$800			
Local		\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500			
Total	\$0	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$0	\$0	\$12,900

Proposed project scope: Purchase battery electric buses and charging equipment to further advance the electrification of the HOP fleet in Boulder.

Proposed project budget:

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal					\$0		
State (MMOF)					\$2,400		
State (FASTER)					\$323		
State (Settlement)					\$1,745		
Local					\$875		
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,343	\$0	\$5,343

The city is appreciative of the guidance from CDOT and DRCOG staff in confirming the eligibility of this proposed project amendment and support in pivoting this project to further enhance HOP services and maximize local and regional benefit.

Thank you for your continued partnership and consideration of our request. Please direct follow-up communication on this matter with Danny O'Connor, Transit Program Manager (OConnorD@bouldercolorado.gov), who is available to answer any questions and coordinate on next steps.

Sincerely,



Erika Vandenbrande
Director of Transportation & Mobility

Cc:

Brodie Ayers, Transit Project Coordination Unit Manager, CDOT
Moirra Moon, Lead Project Coordinator, CDOT
Kim Phi, Administration & Operating Programming Specialist, CDOT
Chris Hagelin, Acting Manager of Transportation Planning, City of Boulder
Danny O'Connor, Transit Program Manager, City of Boulder