



DENVER
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January 14, 2010

Dave Shelley
North Metro Corridor Project Manager
Regional Transportation District
1560 Broadway, Suite 700
Denver, CO 80202

RE: North Metro Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Shelley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Metro Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The City and County of Denver supports the establishment of a commuter rail route along the North Metro Corridor on the preferred alignment and the National Western Stock Show (northern) platform location identified in the DEIS.

The North Metro DEIS identified two potential station locations in Denver – National Western Stock Show (northern) and Coliseum (southern). The City and County of Denver facilitated a station location evaluation for the purpose of recommending a preferred station for RTD's North Metro Corridor DEIS. The primary purpose was to evaluate the location that best serves the Coliseum, Stock Show, and adjacent neighborhoods.

The City and County of Denver retained an independent consultant team to provide expertise and analysis for the station selection process. The evaluation criterion included service area, accessibility, and development opportunities. The Station Location Evaluation Matrix can be found in the attached Technical Memorandum summarizing the results of the analysis for each criteria.

The technical evaluation, staff comments from relevant departments, and community input leads us to **recommend the National Western Stock Show as the preferred station location.** The metrics favored the northern location on all accounts – service area, accessibility and development opportunities. In addition, the input from the public meeting hosted on January 7, 2010 highlighted the desire for the station to serve community assets closer to the National Western Stock Show station. Those who attended the public meeting expressed a preference for community accessibility, which is better achieved by the National Western Stock Show location.

Please note that our analysis was based on current conditions, including the existing location of I-70. If a new alignment for I-70 is selected in the forthcoming FEIS, the City and County of Denver requests the opportunity to re-evaluate the station location based on new information.

Sincerely,

Guillermo V. Vidal
Manager of Public Works

cc: Jennifer Hillhouse, Public Works Policy and Planning
Mark Najarian, Theaters and Arenas
Tad Bowman, Theaters and Arenas
Steve Gordon, Community Planning and Development
Jennifer Kovarik, Parks and Recreation
Gene Hook, Environmental Health
Councilwoman Judy Montero, District 9

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