

Board of Directors

Meeting date: September 18, 2024

Agenda Item #: 11

Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit Project Overview

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Overview of the Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit project led by the Colorado Department of Transportation. The project team recently submitted a rating application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for a Small Starts Capital Investment Grant.

Background

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is leading the Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The [Federal Boulevard BRT project](#) spans 18 miles along Federal Boulevard from 120th Avenue (connecting to the Wagon Road Park and Ride Station) to Dartmouth Avenue (connecting to the Englewood Light Rail Station). The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is helping fund the ongoing pre-construction activities through its 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

The project is currently in the FTA Project Development phase, which includes National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA documentation. Specifically, the project is currently undergoing environmental review and preliminary design. These activities address all aspects of the project, including proposed service, routing, and operations; vehicles and infrastructure, roadway and station design, cost, funding and financing, and numerous other project elements.

This work is building from the alignment recommended in previous studies, which is “side-running” BRT in a dedicated curbside lane for much of the length of Federal Boulevard, and some constrained sections where it would operate in mixed traffic with speed and reliability components like queue jumps and transit signal priority.

The project entered into the Federal Transit Administration’s [Capital Investment Grant Program](#) in Fall 2023, and is specifically included in the Small Starts funding stream. Entry in the program means the project is evaluated and rated in multiple categories to eventually receive significant federal funding (up to \$150 million) towards project construction. This multi-year process begins with entering into the program and, when ready, submitting a rating application to the FTA, which CDOT will do later this month.

As part of providing a support letter to CDOT as a key project stakeholder, DRCOG staff requested CDOT provide an overview of the Federal BRT project at the September Board meeting.



Board of Directors Meeting
September 18, 2024
Page 2 of 2

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

Colorado Department of Transportation presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Jacob Riger, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6751 or jriger@drcog.org.

