



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT

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June 29, 2026

Brad Williams, Planner
Denver Regional Council of Governments
1001 17th Street, Suite 700
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Delay of High Line Canal Trail Underpass #1 at Colfax Avenue – STU C120-034 (26167)

Mr. Williams,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you an update regarding the project status of the TIP grant awarded by DRCOG for the High Line Canal Trail Underpass #1 at Colfax Avenue between Laredo St and Norfolk St in the City of Aurora.

Based on conditions of the grant, the design phase for this project was scheduled and expected to be underway by July 1, 2026. The project has been delayed and will not meet that schedule.

Staff turnover at Arapahoe County initially delayed this project in 2024, as the previously assigned project manager left the County in May of 2024. The County did not have staffing capacity to fully devote to the project until a new project manager was assigned in November 2024 after the vacant project manager position was filled. In late 2024 and early 2025, the new Arapahoe County project manager worked with the CDOT Alternative Delivery Office to explore whether this project would be a good candidate for an alternative delivery method. The County completed the CDOT Alternative Delivery Selection Matrix and determined that the Construction Manager / General Contractor (CM/GC) delivery method would be the best fit for this project. The primary reasons for selecting the CM/GC delivery method were potential time savings on construction by having a contractor involved in the design phase of the project to be able to advance critical path items such as taking early action on the extensive underground utility relocation required for the project, and procurement of long-lead items such as the pre-cast concrete box culvert segments. CDOT formally approved the County's request to use the alternative delivery method on April 24, 2025.

CDOT required the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County to reflect the scope change to a CM/GC project delivery method and so progress towards completing the IGA was paused until after the alternative delivery method was approved, and re-initiated in late April of 2025. The IGA was finally approved by CDOT on September 29, 2025.

The City of Aurora and Adams County, who are both local funding partners and critical members of the project management team, both had project manager changeovers in the months that followed. Aurora initially assigned this project to its Public Works Department, but transferred responsibility for it to Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS) in December of 2025. Adams County Opens Spaces also had staff turnover and a new project manager assigned in early 2026. The three participating local agencies finally were able to agree on a final draft of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for design in late May 2026, and CDOT gave final approval to advertise the RFP on June 17, 2026. The RFP was posted to Bid Net on June 22, 2026, and is due on July 20, 2026.

The anticipated project schedule going forward has been defined in the RFP:

- September 2026 – Notice to Proceed to Design Consultant
- October 2026 - Advertisement of RFPs to select CM and ICE
- January 2027 – Notice to Proceed to CM and ICE
- March 2027 –Right of Way Plan Review Meeting (ROWPR)
- Spring 2027 to September 2027 - 90% Plan Review Meeting, Completion of Right of Way Acquisition, Environmental and Utility Clearances Obtained, and Guaranteed Maximum Price Negotiation with General Contractor.
- December 2027 – Final Construction Plans and Specifications.
- Early 2028 –Commencement of Work on the First Construction Package.

Arapahoe County and our partners at Adams County and the City of Aurora are working diligently to advance this project. Though some delay occurred due to selecting and obtaining approval for the alternative delivery method, we continue to believe that we will make up time and obtain better value on the project once the design phase is underway by using the CM/GC delivery method.

Sincerely,



Steven Buckley, PE
Project Manager
Arapahoe County