



June 29, 2026

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

RE: Delay of TIP Grant - Airport Creek Trail Underpass at BNSF (TIP ID 2022-038)

Mr. Williams,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request for a status update regarding the TIP grant awarded by DRCOG for the Airport Creek Trail Underpass at BNSF project. This project includes the design and construction of a grade-separated crossing of the Airport Creek Trail under the BNSF railroad. The new trail connection will eliminate the transportation barrier that is created by the railroad tracks and provide a safe, low-stress active mode connection between Broomfield neighborhoods, recreation facilities, places of employment, and transit stations along US 36.

Based on the conditions of the grant, the project was required to be advertised for construction by September 30, 2025, and then, after receiving a first-year delay and an approved extension, by June 30, 2026.

Due to challenges beyond the control of the City and County of Broomfield (City), the project will not be ready for advertisement by the end of June 2026. The complexity of the design and coordination with BNSF has proven to be more significant than expected. While the design is progressing, there have been several key issues that have affected the design schedule:

- **Design Revisions (Future Track Widening):** Following the July 2025 30% design submittal, BNSF requested revisions to the underpass length to accommodate future track widening. This change required significant redesign of wingwalls and drainage on the west side of the tracks.
- **Lengthy BNSF Reviews:** Design reviews by BNSF and their consultant (Wilson & Co.) have consistently exceeded the requested review time of 30 days. BNSF reviews have averaged over 45 days, with some submittal comments arriving more than 60 days after the design package was submitted.
- **Addressing BNSF Comments:** Throughout the conceptual, 30%, and 60% phases, the design team has addressed BNSF's comprehensive review comments. This has involved detailed back-and-forth coordination, including the submission of supplemental analyses and new information. While progress has been made, several key issues remain outstanding at the 60% design level. To expedite the approval process, the City and design team have requested direct meetings with BNSF staff and their design consultant. To date, BNSF has not accommodated these requests.

- **Structure Re-assessment:** The 60% design review was submitted February 4, 2026 and BNSF comments were received on April 13, 2026. After attempting to resolve a key design issue (which included preparing a refined deflection analysis), BNSF indicated on May 26, 2026 that they would not approve the 16' Steel Pipe option that was previously proposed in the conceptual and 30% reviews. BNSF cited pipe deflection and depth of cover concerns as the reasoning for rejecting the steel pipe option. The City is now evaluating the increased costs and schedule impacts of transitioning to a more expensive concrete box culvert alternative. The City is also ensuring that additional local funding can be secured for the construction phase.

Because the design timeline depends on the resolution of BNSF review comments, approval of design variances from railroad standards, and formal BNSF concurrence, there is uncertainty regarding the schedule for the remainder of the design. Despite these challenges, the City remains fully committed to this project.

The design team has been working diligently to deliver this project and is prepared to move quickly to advertisement and construction once BNSF approves key design elements.

Sincerely,

Micah Zogorski, PE
CIP Project Manager
City and County of Broomfield