UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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SEP 29 2011

Ref: 8EPR-N

Donald Hunt
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 East Arkansas Avenue
Denver, CO 80222

John Cater
Division Administrator, Colorado Division
Federal Highway Administration
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: North I-25 Final Environmental Impact Statement CEQ#20110271

Dear Mr. Hunt and Mr. Cater:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to identify and evaluate multi-modal transportation improvements along the 61-mile I-25 transportation corridor extending from the Fort Collins/Wellington area to Denver. The FHWA prepared this FEIS in cooperation with the Colorado Department Transportation (CDOT). Our review and comments provided are pursuant to our responsibility under Section 102(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C Section 7609.

Thank you for the level of consideration given in responding to agency and public comments that were provided during the review of the Draft EIS. In particular, we appreciate your efforts to address our concerns that other sources of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and their contribution to ozone precursors within the regional area be included in the air quality analysis. In addition, we appreciate the disclosure of applicable regulatory requirements for protecting visibility in Federal Class I areas and the status of visibility degradation in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP).

The EPA concurs with your assessment that high-elevation ecosystems in RMNP and other

sensitive mountain environments along the Front Range are vulnerable to atmospheric nitrogen deposition. We support your efforts to disclose the direct and cumulative impacts of increased ammonia emissions and list potential ammonia emission mitigation measures.

The EPA commends your efforts to work cooperatively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in identifying the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) consistent with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and recognize that the preferred alternative, selected in the Final EIS, has the least impact to aquatic resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of this project during the NEPA process. If you have any questions regarding EPA's input, please contact me at 303-312-6925, or David Duster of my staff at 303-312-6665.

Sincerely,

Suzanne J. Bohan
Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

cc: Carol Parr, CDOT
Monica Pavlik, FHWA
North I-25 Project Team

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