



Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority

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April 20, 2020

Mr. Paul Jesaitis, Region 1 Transportation Director
Colorado Department of Transportation
2829 West Howard Place, Ste. 207
Denver, Colorado 80204

Re: I-70/Harvest Road Interchange 1601 Application

Dear Mr. Jesaitis,

In response to your letter, dated March 2, 2020, we offer the following initial responses to the items CDOT requested be addressed to facilitate an efficient 1601 process:

- *Traffic numbers used for new interchange were based on the DRCOG 2040 model, which includes construction of a future roadway system (parallel network). CDOT requests a plan from ARTA as to when the system will be constructed and what triggers will be in place for the system to be constructed.*

The traffic forecasting for the proposed interchange has utilized the most current version of the DRCOG activity-based travel demand model (Focus 2.2) which also takes into consideration the recently updated North East Area Transportation Study, dated October 2018 (NEATS Refresh). ARTA is responsible for the funding, design, and construction of a portion of the future roadway system included in the DRCOG model and the NEATS Refresh (the NEATS Refresh is available for reference on the City of Aurora website). The overall roadway network will be triggered by travel demands as development occurs along the Harvest Road corridor and will be controlled through the City of Aurora and Adams County development approval processes along with referrals to CDOT.

The initial construction of roadways associated with the interchange for which ARTA is responsible are identified and projected to be constructed as follows: Initial Harvest Road Interchange construction 2022 with links to existing Powhaton initially and connection to Harvest Road/Powhaton roadway north of I-70 in 2022-2024 timeframe. Please refer to

Attachment A - *"I-70/Harvest Road Interchange Construction Information Exhibit"* for additional information.

- *CDOT requests an increase from 550 feet to 750 feet for the distance from the ramp termini to any access point.*

This requirement shall be accommodated for during the design of the project. The Project Team requests possible future consideration from CDOT in determining adequate distance from ramp termini where physical constraints and geometric design may not allow for the full 750 feet.

- *CDOT requests enough clear span to allow for a future I-70 footprint similar to I-25 and I-70 in metro Denver. At a minimum two 101 foot clear spans, totaling 202 feet is requested for the Harvest structure over I-70.*

The future needs and demand for I-70 have been anticipated in the preliminary span layout for the Harvest Road bridge over I-70. The minimum span lengths requirement for the future I-70 lane configuration has been accommodated in the preliminary bridge layout and ramp spacing. Refer to Attachment B - *"I-70/Harvest Road Interchange General Layout"* for more information.

- *CDOT will need to review and provide additional comments on the revised System Level Study and interchange management plan in order to approve the 1601.*

This is ongoing. The System Level Study is currently under final revision based on comments recently received from CDOT. An Interchange Management Plan has been included in the System Level Study submitted as part of the 1601 approval process.

- *CDOT requests a multi-modal plan from ARTA that describes how the planned growth in this area will be accommodated by all modes.*

ARTA will follow the City of Aurora's multimodal system plans as outlined in the NEATS Refresh, including facilitating the placement of future mobility hubs as development occurs throughout the area. The NEATS Refresh describes how this will be achieved. The City of Aurora works with the developers to serve alternative modes as part of the development review process with CDOT referrals. In addition, the revised Preferred Alternative Refinement accommodates various modes of travel including general purpose vehicular traffic, bicycles, and pedestrians.

- *Detail how residential and commercial development in this area will tie into the existing RTD A-Line.*

ARTA's projects accommodate the expansion of the proposed multimodal corridors as depicted in the NEATS Refresh. The RTD A-Line is not in the study area for this project, however, the NEATS Refresh includes a proposed plan for high frequency transit in the study area. The City of Aurora typically works with developments to extend the RTD boundary to provide regional service as part of the development review process. Future corridors including 26th Avenue and 38th Avenue are identified for high frequency bus transit routes affording connections to the A-Line station within the area.

ARTA understands the 1601 Interchange Approval Process brings together the various CDOT and FHWA permitting and approval procedures into a unified process for new interchanges on the Federal Interstate System. As part of the process, at this time, the Transportation Commission grants conditional approval of the System Level Feasibility Study, followed by final, signed construction documents and Intergovernmental Agreements being executed prior to construction of the project. ARTA stands ready to assist in any way necessary to complete a successful and efficient process.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with CDOT as we move forward in the process ultimately culminating in the construction of this very important part of the regional transportation network.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Hopper".

Matt Hopper, Chairman

Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority

LEGEND

APPROXIMATE ARTA BOUNDARY

ARTA PLANNED CONSTRUCTION:

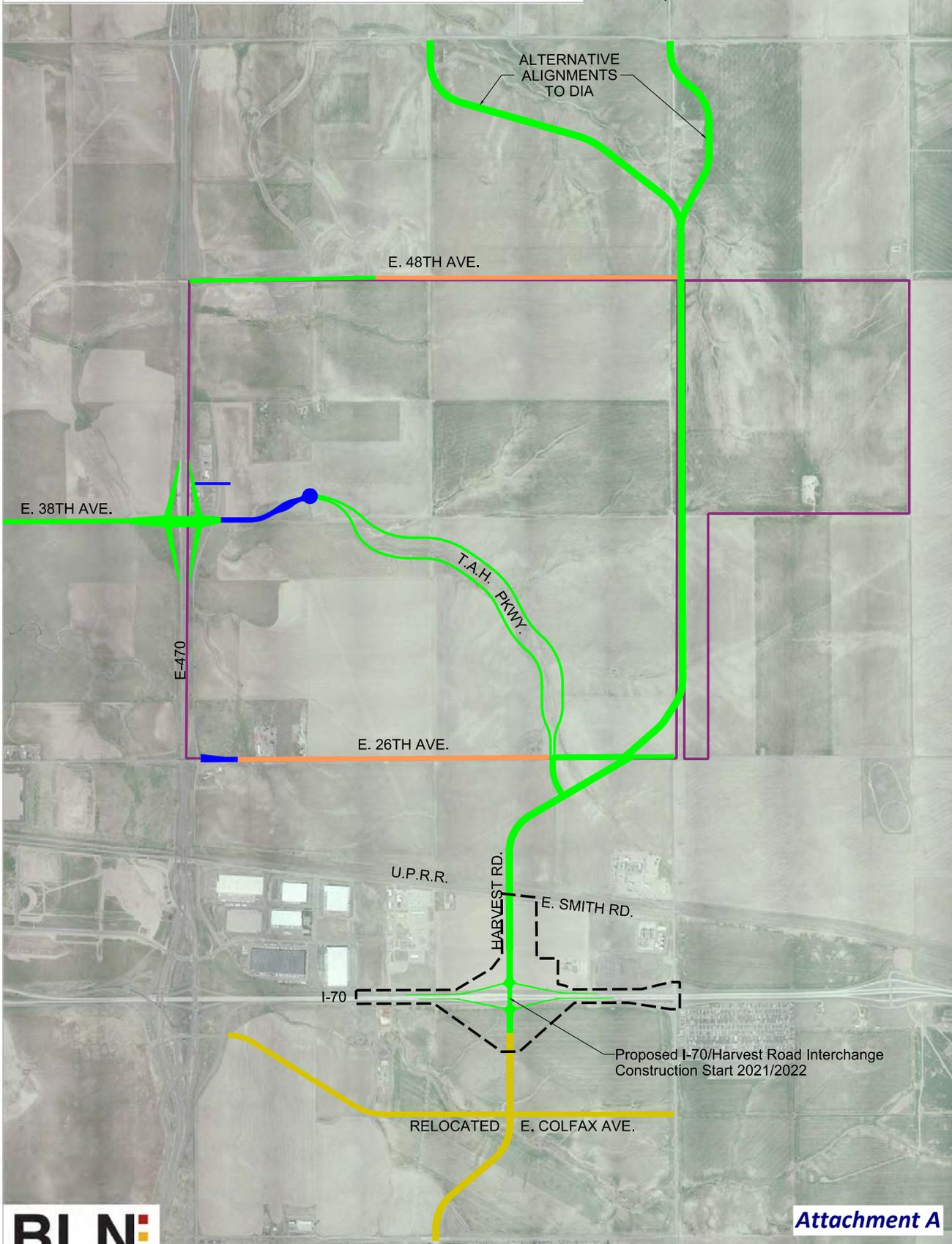
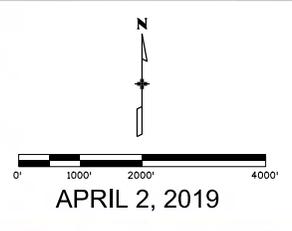
2018-2021

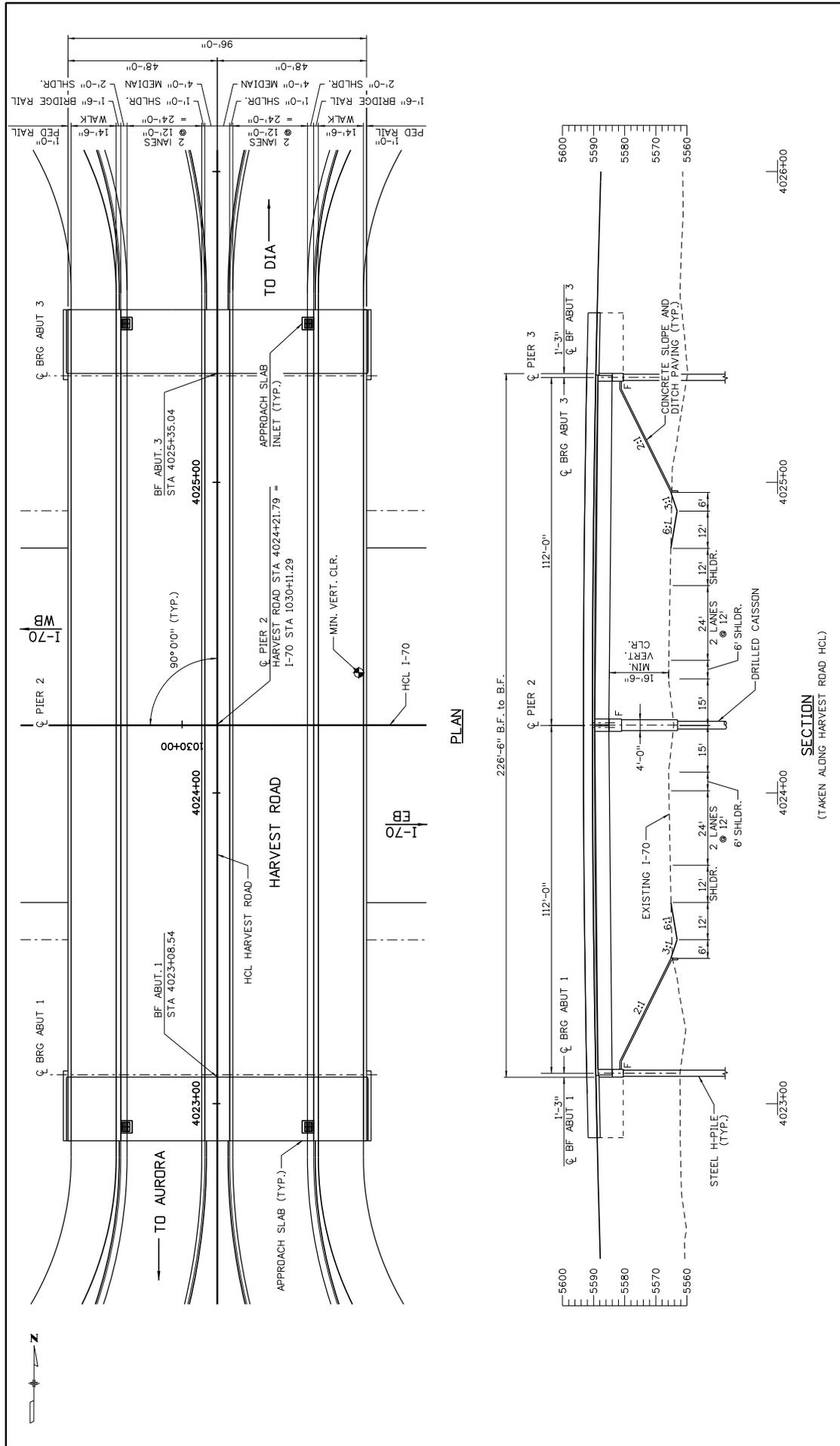
2022-2026

2027-2032

FUTURE WORK BY OTHERS (DATE UNKNOWN)

INTERCHANGE RE-EVALUATION STUDY AREA





Print Date: 12/18/2019		Project No./Code	
File Name: BR_GenLayout.dgn		I-70/HARVEST ROAD INTERCHANGE	
Horiz. Scale: 1:30		GENERAL LAYOUT	
Vert. Scale: As Noted		As Constructed	
Unit Information		No. Revisions:	
Unit Leader Initials		Revised:	
1675 Broadway, Suite 2000		Void:	
Denver, CO 80202			
Phone: 303-534-1732			
Date: _____ Comments: _____ Initl: _____		Designer: _____ Detailer: _____ Sheet Subsets: BR 1 Subsets: 1 of 2	
		Project Number	
		Code	
		Sheet Number 14	

Attachment B