

Sustainable stormwater solutions.



January 29, 2025

TO: USDOT / FHWA PROTECT Grant Selection Committee

RE: Arapahoe County – Gun Club Road at Coal Creek Bridge Design

To Members of the Selection Committee:

Arapahoe County is submitting a Planning Grant application under the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant program for the Gun Club Road at Coal Bridge Design project. The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners is in full support of this application. This letter is intended to convey the support of the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) for the Gun Club Road at Coal Creek Bridge project.

SEMSWA is a local government Drainage Authority and Arapahoe County Partner that provides stormwater management services within its Service Area, which includes this area of unincorporated Arapahoe County.

The current crossing of Coal Creek at Gun Club Road consists of a series of severely undersized culverts that convey approximately 200 cubic feet per second (cfs), despite the 2-year storm event in this area having flows over 2000 cfs, and the 100-year storm having flows over 16,000 cfs. In its current configuration, Gun Club Road frequently overtops, forcing closure of the roadway, local traffic to be detoured, and contributing to extensive flooding upstream of Gun Club Road. In 2018 SEMSWA completed a project to upsize the culvert to its current 200 cfs configuration to mitigate flooding and road closure events, but with the knowledge that a much more comprehensive solution was needed. A new bridge at this location will help reduce floodplain impacts upstream of Gun Club Road and improve resiliency of the local transportation network, including emergency service needs by avoiding frequent closures of the roadway during storm events. These outcomes are in the public interest and align with the resiliency goals of Arapahoe County, SEMSWA, and the USDOT FHWA PROTECT Grant program.

If Arapahoe County is selected for this PROTECT Planning Grant, SEMSWA intends to actively participate in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Olsen", is written over a horizontal line.

Dan Olsen, Executive Director
Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA)