

From: [Adam Andrasko](#)
To: [Lobato, Elena](#)
Subject: Expressway Opposition Letter
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:02:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Dear Ms. Lobato,

It is my understanding that the City is considering expanding Constitution Avenue into an expressway from Union Boulevard to I-25 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

As a resident of the historic neighborhoods that will be adjacent to the proposed expressway, I would like to express my significant opposition to this ill-conceived project (project #105).

I was surprised and disappointed to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

- * Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway adjacent to my home will dramatically exacerbate the noise pollution.
- * Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, I will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.
- * Multiple sources indicate that I will incur up to a 10% reduction in my property values if the expressway is constructed adjacent to my home.
- * I am concerned that by ramming this expressway through the proposed route, it will fracture our historic neighborhoods.
- * The expressway will be just steps from several of our local neighborhood schools.
- * It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park, trails, and wildlife.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Lobato, Elena

From: Scott Davis <1504alamo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 8:00 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Fwd: Constitution Expressway

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear Ms. Lobato,
Please forward this message to the members of the Planning Commission.
Thank you.
Barbara Badgett

Scott Davis

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott Davis <1504alamo@gmail.com>
Date: January 10, 2023 at 9:56:31 AM MST
To: Tim.Roberts@coloradosprings.gov
Subject: Constitution Expressway

Dear Sir,

As a resident of Alamo Ave, I write to tell you I oppose the inclusion of a Constitution Expressway in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan. While I recognize a possible need for an east-west arterial in CS, I believe the Constitution Expressway is not the solution to this need.

Reviewing what has been done in other cities...New Haven CT, NYC, Atlanta to name a few....when similar projects were pushed through, I see that urban decay followed in the project areas. The more productive residents of these areas removed their lives from the areas. Decay set in; tax revenues declined.

I also object to the Constitution Expressway for the following specific reasons:

- . Noise pollution will increase for all neighborhoods along the route
- . Air quality will be deeply negatively impacted.
- . Property values will decline
- . Enjoyment of the Monument Park, other smaller open spaces along the proposed Route, the substantial amount of wildlife currently in the area will be diminished.

I am saddened that inspite of past and continuing public opposition to this proposal, public officials continue to consider it and push for it.

Sincerely,
Barbara Badgett
1504 Alamo Ave
719-473-947

Scott Davis

Lobato, Elena

From: ?????? ???????? <lpb2372@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway Project Concern

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear Planning Commission Member, would you please forward me each Planning Commission member's contact e-mail? Thank you very much. Below is my grave concern.

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meetings on January 5, 2023, and February 8, 2023.

As a resident of 2400 Wood Avenue Townhomes, located at the corner of Wood Avenue and Jackson Street, I would like to express my **vehement opposition** to the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project (project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25.

I was shocked to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list due to negative neighborhood impacts and significant opposition.

I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan. Here is why:

- * Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from forever-roaring I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway just steps from my home will dramatically exacerbate the noise issue.
- * Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, I will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.
- * After a lifetime of working and saving, I will incur a dramatic reduction in my property value if the expressway is constructed adjacent to my home.
- * It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the proposed expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park and wildlife. Have you walked the trails in the park since the expansion of I-25? Can you honestly say that you don't hear it?

* How many historic neighborhoods do we have left in our community that we are so reckless in ramming this proposed 4 – 6 lane expressway through?

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.** I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus destroying our historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Liubov Bystrytskaya

Lobato, Elena

From: Janet Carlisle <janet.carlisle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:16 AM
To: Roberts, Tim; Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Ave project opposition comment

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Good Morning -

I was just at the planning meeting at Stratton Elementary for the proposed extension of Constitution Ave through our neighborhood to I-25. Actually, the meeting was so full that I was among the 100 or more concerned citizens who were turned away.

I have to assume that the majority of the citizens who were there were opposed to the project. I am most definitely opposed to the project.

Please listen to the citizens and do NOT continue with this project. It's really not feasible or desirable for many reasons:

- ** The older neighborhoods are an important part of the charm and history of Colorado Springs
- ** there are already MANY on and off choices relative to I-25, we really do NOT need yet another exit off the highway
- ** adding this disruptive corridor through the established neighborhoods would increase noise and pollution to an otherwise quiet and beautiful family neighborhood
- ** adding this disruption to the neighborhood would decrease property values - we certainly don't want that!!!
- ** We already have too much construction in Colorado Springs - the more we pave over areas where flora and fauna reside, the more we cause disruption to the natural environment. We need to live WITH nature, not pave over it.
- ** the costs, monetarily and esthetically, are not worth the benefit.
- ** the neighbors don't want it

I could go on...

Please forward this to those parties in the planning/feasibility committees relative to this project.

thank you,

Janet Carlisle, 2016 n Tejon 80907

Lobato, Elena

From: Ken Chalfant <kpchalfant@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Roberts, Tim; Lobato, Elena
Subject: The Constitution expressway and Fillmore expansion

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Greetings,

While I appreciate the desire to enhance east to west movement in the city I must express very strong opposition to the notion of connecting Constitution Avenue through long established residential neighborhoods to I-25.

This will damage and destroy some of the older and nicest neighborhoods in the city. The remaining remnants of these neighborhoods will experience an unfair burden mostly for the benefit of people who are not residents of these neighborhoods.

Noise and crime are both extremely like to increase. Property values will unfairly suffer. This will bring a heightened level of pollution into these areas.

This will simply and unfairly cause irreversible harm to these neighborhoods and the people who live there.

Additionally, the idea of expanding Fillmore Street seems farfetched. The only way to widen Fillmore will be to push the boundaries of the road right to the front door of many of the businesses between Union and I-25. This will also bring additional traffic into the old north end communities. There is already more than enough.

The brilliant redesign of the Fillmore / I-25 overpass has already increased congestion. At certain times of the day the traffic using the metered northbound I-25 on ramp backs up a considerable distance on west bound Fillmore. This has the additional negative effect of clogging through traffic intended to climb the Fillmore hill.

These are not the solutions this city needs.

Regards,

Ken

Ken P. Chalfant
2842 N. Institute St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Lobato, Elena

From: Jeannie Cox <jeanniecox17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:03 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Removal of the Expressway Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: CPC

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Dear Ms. Lobato,

It is our understanding that the City is considering expanding Constitution Avenue into an expressway from Union Boulevard to I-25 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

As a resident of the historic neighborhoods that will be adjacent to the proposed expressway, we would like to express our significant opposition to this ill-conceived project (project #105).

We were surprised and disappointed to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list.

We oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on, at a minimum, the following:

- Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway adjacent to our home will dramatically exacerbate the noise pollution.
- Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, we will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.
- Multiple sources indicate that we will incur up to a 10% reduction in our property values if the expressway is constructed adjacent to our home.
- We are concerned that by ramming this expressway through the proposed route, it will fracture our historic neighborhoods.
- The expressway will be just steps from several of our local neighborhood schools.

- It is our understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park, trails, and wildlife.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweigh the projects benefits. **We urge you to direct staff to remove the project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan permanently.**

We encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east - west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities, versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods. **For example, traffic should be routed around the city, not directly through the city and neighborhoods that have been established for 50-100 plus years.**

We ask that you please forward this email to CTAB and the Planning Commission. Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barry and Jeannie Cox
2758 N Prospect St
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Lobato, Elena

From: David Daniel <ddslp27@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Purposed Constitution Avenue Extension

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Good morning Elena,

I hope you are doing well today. I would like the following email forwarded to other members of the Planning Commission too please.

My name is David and I am a teacher at Harrison high school and a resident of the Bonnieville neighborhood off of North Wahsatch, less than one tenth of a milee from the constitution extension that is being proposed.

When I think about this Avenue extension and I after I heard from many neighbors this morning, and I look back at the history, the over three decades this project being taken off the agenda, I see that this time around it's time for this project to be permanently terminated.

I don't believe the answer is more roads and more cars. I read recent study that said that 82% of Colorado Springs residents have a vehicle for primary transportation. Isn't another road eventually just going to become congested like the other roads? We have a bus system that is lacking and no rail system. Would a more feasible study be to research improving those areas before adding more roads to a city that has plenty?

I have lived off North Wasatch for 14 months.

I moved here from Eatonton Georgia where the total population is less than 6,500. I know traffic when I see it because I'm from a place that has very few traffic lights. I commute on Unitah every single day and Fillmore weekly. I have never once thought Unitah was constrained. I do notice that Fillmore can be congested but I feel that could be relived if Fillmore had a continuous access road to I-25 both N and S without all the traffic lights at the Fillmore and I-25 exchange.

Let's keep the greenway space and better connect our trial systems of rock island, shooks run to America thr beautiful. The parks and recreation in my area, and bike path and trails are specific reasons why I bought my home, and why I paid more price per square foot.

When I look at a map, I see that we have wonderful east west mobility routes already in place that include major roads such as I 25 to 24, Unitah, filmore, Austin bluffs parkway, Woodman, and to an certain extent, N. Academy. As well as research parkway and Briargate.

The proposed feasibility study is going to cost the city 2-3 million dollars. The question I ask is is the Constitution Avenue extension feasible? Is it in a state that is easily and conveniently done? Not just right of way purchase but for the residents and homes of the neighborhoods affected? Is it truly a feasible way to solve our transportation needs in the city?

And would it actually be more feasible to use that two to \$3000,000 to improve our already amazing east to west mobility routes and not disturb historic neighborhoods.

Today is the day for this purposed project of Constitution Avenue extension be permanently terminated. Let's look at more responsible ways to handle our citizens moving around more effectively and efficiently.

Kindly,

David Daniel
706-473-3454

Lobato, Elena

From: Scott Davis <1504alamo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:00 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway

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Hello, having read today's Gazette and the quote from Councilman Bill Murray re: Norwood's "bare knuckle power" and the "scary" amount of "power Norwood has over this community," I'm wondering if you can share any communications from Norwood regarding the Constitution Expressway? It's obvious that the expressway's purpose is to accommodate people and businesses on Powers corridor at the expense of established communities near downtown. Who is in charge of these plans? Norwood or city government? Thanks for your time and I look forward to your sharing of Norwood's interest in the expressway.

Scott Davis

Lobato, Elena

From: P L ENDRES <plendres@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Fw: constitution ave. expansion
Attachments: corridor congestion score map.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please forward to ctab and the planning commision

From: P L ENDRES <plendres@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:26 PM
To: Tim.Roberts@ColoradoSprings.gov <Tim.Roberts@ColoradoSprings.gov>
Subject: Fw: constitution ave. expansion

From: P L ENDRES <plendres@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 9:55 PM
To: TOM MONA <tegger14@msn.com>
Subject: Fwd: constitution ave. expansion

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: ConnectCOS - SMB <ConnectCOS@coloradosprings.gov>
Date: January 3, 2023 at 10:33:26 AM MST
To: P L ENDRES <plendres@msn.com>
Subject: RE: constitution ave. expansion

Good morning,

Thank you for voicing your opinion on the proposed traffic study for Constitution Avenue as part of the ConnectCOS draft. Based on the feedback we have received, we are providing the following additional information, pending a review of all comments received and decisions on any proposed changes:

East-west mobility in Colorado Springs continues to be challenged by the capacity of existing roadways with limited room for expansion and increasing demand. This was formally documented when City Council adopted the East-West Mobility Study in 2002.

ConnectCOS echoes those concerns 20 years later- that every east-west corridor between Woodmen Road and the MLK Bypass is stressed due to limited capacity. The technical analysis itself (Figure 3, attached) confirms this.

When considering the entire goal framework for these corridors, other challenges also emerge. These include high crash statistics, congestion/reliability challenges, and a disconnect between the function of the roadway and the needs of the corridor users and surrounding land uses.

Fillmore and Uintah Streets are particularly challenged as they serve as primary connections between Palmer Park area neighborhoods and I-25 and have limited room for expansion to adequately handle current or future traffic. To increase the capacity of these corridors, as well as many other existing east-west corridors, the roadways would need to be widened by taking private property to create additional rights-of-way. That would negatively impact the businesses and those living adjacent to those corridors.

Those direct impacts to people's livelihoods and acquisition of private properties dictate the need to identify any other alternatives that may make sense. With existing corridors constrained, one such alternative is an extension of Constitution Avenue from Union Blvd. to I-25. This potential extension would provide additional east-west capacity, functioning best without connections to any other roadways between I-25 and Union Blvd. Additionally, the right-of-way is already in place, so the extension would not require acquisition of private properties and it would limit the negative impacts of widening other existing east-west corridors.

While this extension may make sense from that perspective, there are many other technical areas that would need to be considered. Examples of those areas of consideration would include:

- How much east-west relief would this connection really provide?
- Are there also beneficial volume reductions on north-south corridors?
- The costs in bridges and structures would likely be very high, what is that order of magnitude?
- When considering the total costs associated with this alternative, do those outweigh the benefits?

It is worth noting that during the summer of 2022, the City of Colorado Springs was developing their list of transportation projects to be funded by the Pikes Peak Transportation Authority (PPRTA).

A study of this alternative was initially proposed with that preliminary project list. At that time, there was support expressed by citizens for the study to validate and inform the traffic patterns and congestion that they were experiencing. However, there were also citizens who spoke out against the study who prioritized preservation of historic neighborhoods along the corridor.

Those against the study asked that it be removed from the PPRTA project list and be funded by other means. In listening to those concerns, the City of Colorado Springs removed the study from the proposed PPRTA list. However, the need to have an informed conversation with the community regarding the extension still exists. The feasibility study is intended to create that conversation based on a shared, public understanding of what the connection might be, and its benefits and impacts.

ConnectCOS requires an in-depth assessment of the City's transportation system with identification of challenges and opportunities. In service to the citizens living and working along the city's east-west corridors, those living adjacent to the Constitution Avenue corridor and the general traveling public, it is

recommended that the City pursue a study to explore the technical and financial feasibility of this alternative. The study will ensure that the City of Colorado Springs is consistent and transparent in its approach to assessing the transportation system.

Again, thank you for sharing your comments.

Sincerely,

ConnectCOS Team

From: P L ENDRES <PLENDRES@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 2, 2023 2:12 PM
To: ConnectCOS - SMB <ConnectCOS@coloradosprings.gov>
Subject: constitution ave. expansion

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I was very disheartened to see that the Constitution avenue expansion is back on the agenda after being tabled for only 5 months. It is a terrible idea and was a terrible idea when it was first proposed 20 years ago. It will be hugely detrimental to a coveted, family friendly historical neighborhood by increasing noise, pollution, plummeting property values and reducing the quality of life. Also, people fear losing their houses due to eminent domain. We would be suffering the consequences of the out of control urban sprawl that was allowed on the east end of town. I have found many studies done nationwide that has proven that road expansion does not ease congestion but makes the road more dangerous. We have enough issues with numerous traffic accidents as it is.

Thank you for reading this. I strongly hope you listen and care about the people you are representing and realize how deeply this impact people's lives.

Priscilla Endres

Patty Jewett Neighborhood

Lobato, Elena

From: KATE ESSICK <keessick@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 11:01 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Remove projects 105 and 106 from the ConnectCOS project list

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Elena.lobato@coloradosprings.gov

Remove projects 105 and 106 from the ConnectCOS project list.

In June of 2022, the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority proposed a feasibility study for an extension of Constitution Avenue from its current dead-end at Paseo Road to I-25. After significant pushback from people around the city, this study was removed from the PPRTA. We were told at the time it was removed completely and we thought that was the end of it. However, they failed to mention or acknowledge that when they removed it from the PPRTA, it was moved over to the ConnectCOS project list - from a regional transportation project to a City one.

In the ConnectCOS project list, this project is described as a "limited access, mutli-modal roadway" that would "[minimize] neighborhood and school impact." But a few columns to the right of that description, the list **describes the extent of the impact of this project as High**. Another document from their ConnectCOS planning work describes this as a "Principal Arterial" thoroughfare. Even a four-lane roadway with no median and narrow shoulders could involve removing homes and/or parts of the Rock Island Trail, and create significant additional noise and pollution for the neighborhood and the students at Stratton Elementary and Horace Mann Middle Schools - putting a major thoroughway right in front of the place where young schoolchildren are supposed to be able to safely play outside during their recess periods.

The project list document also states that the "Primary Associated Critical Corridor" with this project is Fillmore Street. **If Fillmore Street is the "critical corridor," why is Constitution Ave the focus of this project, rather than working to improve and extend Fillmore?**

This plan would prioritize the citizens of eastern El Paso County, developers, and "convenience" (for a few) over well established neighborhoods and older homes. Shorter commutes to downtown or I-25 are NOT justification to potentially eliminate historic homes and/or important green space. The plan has also not included informing or soliciting feedback from any residents who might be impacted or even lose their homes - rather, it was quietly placed into the ConnectCOS project in hopes that our neighbors would not see it or once again protest it until it was too late.

By including these projects in ConnectCOS, the City will encourage further eastern county development rather than exploring and engaging in the process of in-filling many areas of our existing city. This would simply add the need (and excuse) for other east-west byways to be built, and subsequently, further requests to be annexed into the city for water access.

Remove projects 105 and 106 from the ConnectCOS project list.

Sincerely,

Kate Essick

keessick@aol.com

Lobato, Elena

From: Elaine Freed (R) <efreed@coloradocollege.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 2, 2023 7:35 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Ms. Lobato: please forward the following to each Colorado Springs Planning Commission member:

To members of the Planning Commission:

Once again residents of old and historic neighborhoods in the city's center are threatened with the possibility of an extension of Constitution Avenue to connect with I-25. And once again, I express my strong opposition to this proposed project.

I live in a condominium complex at 2400 Wood. The proposed expressway would run along our border fence, about a half-block away from my front door. We already have unhealthy air and noise pollution from I-25. The proposed expressway would increase that many times over. I worry that it would be impossible to live here. And I worry also that our property values would decrease considerably.

Please seek a better solution to the current and anticipated traffic problems. I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

Thank you for your service to the city.

Elaine Freed, 2362 Wood Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80907 719 635 2780

Lobato, Elena

From: Michael H fritz <michaelhfritz@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:43 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Extension

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Elena,

My property is immediately adjacent to the proposed Constitution extension. Naturally, I am opposed to the project for all the same reasons given by the speakers at the January 21st meeting. I shouldn't need to iterate them again. This is my retirement home that I have the bulk of my retirement savings invested in and I don't care to have my property value compromised or the thought of moving.

There are a number of questions I have that weren't addressed at the meeting.

One of the first is that it appears the city has already decided to go forward with the project as work crews have bulldozed down most of the trees in the proposed right-a-way. Is that indicate the city's decision? Additionally there is a house North and West of Penrose near the Cascade bridge in the proposed extension that has recently been raised to the ground. Does that likewise signal an intent on the part of the city? I don't believe I understood what the intent would be concerning cross streets such as Templeton Gap, North Nevada, Cascade and the numerous intersecting streets East and West of Union and East of Circle?

Further more it seems questionable to add more traffic to an already crowded I-25 just blocks from existing on and off ramps. It would seem to me that streamlining the existing ramps of Uintah and Fillmore might be a better overall approach. Further more, that double cross chicane solution at Fillmore and I-25 hopefully isn't one of the commission's better ideas.

I sincerely hope that the Constitution extension dilemma can be resolved in an equitable fashion that doesn't compromise the surrounding property values.

Regards,

Michael H. Fritz
2614 N Wahsatch Ave
Colorado Springs, CO
1 719 433-3711

Sent from my iPhone

Lobato, Elena

From: amanda grace <grace4356@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:04 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Avenue Extension
Attachments: Microsoft Word - Document1.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear Planning Commission,

It is my understanding that the City is considering expanding Constitution Avenue into an expressway from Union Boulevard to I-25 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

As a person who lives in one of the historic neighborhoods that will be next to the proposed expressway, I want to say that I strongly disagree with this bad idea (project #105).

I was shocked and dismayed to see that this proposal is still being discussed. Multiple times in the past, this project has been proposed and then abandoned owing to major community implications and public resistance. The project was most recently suggested in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects, and City authorities once again instructed staff to remove it from the PPRTA list.

I oppose this project's inclusion in the Transportation Plan for the following reasons:

- I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah, and other busy residential streets are already causing substantial noise pollution in our region. The construction of a highway near to my residence would significantly amplify the noise pollution.
- In addition to a rise in noise pollution, exhaust fumes and other environmental factors will negatively affect me.
- Multiple sources indicate that if the highway is built near to my house, my property value might decrease by up to 10 percent.
- I am afraid that by forcing a freeway via the proposed path, our historic districts would be fragmented.
- The expressway will be just steps from several of our local neighborhood schools.
- Legal limitations prevent the planned path from immediately impacting Monument Valley Park, as far as I am aware. However, the closeness to the freeway will hinder the pleasure of the park, its trails, and its wildlife.

Taking into account the substantial design and construction expenditures as well as the severe negative effects on our communities and property values, the negative effects of this project greatly exceed its positive effects. **Please direct your staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

In lieu of laying new asphalt in our historic neighborhoods, I ask you to concentrate on improving existing streets to promote east-west traffic patterns and multi-modal options.

Best Regards,

Amanda Grace
Kitty Hawk Neighborhood

Lobato, Elena

From: Michael Guthrie <mikeg237@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Cc: Roberts, Tim
Subject: opposition to the Constitution Expressway
Attachments: Colorado Springs Planning Commission.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Michael Guthrie, MD MBA
mikeg237@gmail.com
858-945-8574 (c)
www.mikeguthriemd.com

Colorado Springs Planning Commission

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meeting on February 8, 2023.

We are long time North End residents, currently owning a home on West Del Norte St.

We would like to express our significant opposition to the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project (Project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25.

We are well aware of the pressure to increase the access of I-25 from the east side of the city. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant citizen opposition.

We oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

- A decrease in property values especially for those homes closest to the expressway.
- A significant fracture in the nature of the Old North End neighborhood given the proximity of the expressway to the park, and the trails, cutting the North End off to the north.
- We are concerned with the negative impacts that will result from this proposed expressway through the historic neighborhood.

When you consider the significant number of people impacted negatively by this design and the costs of construction and the negative influences on the neighborhoods and property values, the overall negative impact of this project outweighs the project benefits.

I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,

Mike and Donna Guthrie

Lobato, Elena

From: Amy Henry <amyhenry33@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 10:39 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Opposition to Constitution Expressway feasibility study

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Dear Ms. Lobato,
Please forward this email to each Planning Commission member.
Thank you,
Amy Henry

Date: December 17, 2022
To: Colorado Springs Planning Commission
From: Amy Henry

I live in the 2400 Wood Avenue townhomes and would like to know why city planners are willing to destroy the peace of mind and property values of so many people to study something that is not a viable solution. I am referring to the feasibility study for the Constitution Expressway (project #105 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan), which, if approved, would ram a four lane expressway to I-25 through several historic neighborhoods, substantially decreasing home values, increasing noise and exhaust pollution, and negatively impacting already stressed wildlife.

If we've been paying attention at all to our experience, or, in the case of city planners, to studies in your own field of expertise, everyone knows that building yet another road, destroying several historic neighborhoods in the process, with the promise it will ease congestion on existing roads DOES NOT WORK! It is not a cure for congestion! Everyone knows that within a very short period of time the new road becomes just as congested as the roads it was supposed to help ease, and, to top it off, now ALL of the roads are as congested as ever. As you all know, adding more and/or bigger roads does not equal less traffic. It has been proven over and over again that adding and widening roads CREATES more driving, therefore, more congestion; witness the 26 lane Katy Freeway in Houston, the poster child for Induced Demand.

It is a vicious cycle of predict and provide and fail. City planners fail to make any difference to what is intended, but succeed at negatively impacting people's homes, neighborhoods, and quality of life.

And the people whose lives are impacted with these futile decisions deserve serious consideration. People, like my mom, who now has to live with the looming worry that the value of the home she and my father worked so hard to afford, serving this city, by the way, as a hospital worker and fire fighter, will be significantly reduced. And the neighborhood they strived

to live in destroyed. And for what? Another road that will not do what it will be promoted and promised to do. It's not surprising. City planners did the same thing to my parents' first home and neighborhood over 40 years ago. It's heartbreaking.

Everyone also knows the definition of insanity. Repeating the same thing over and over again, expecting different results. I am asking city planners to stop the insanity for the sake of the residents not only in the neighborhoods that would be affected in this case, but for all of Colorado Springs.

I know there is pressure to do something. I'm begging city planners to have the courage to do something different. I am begging you to BE something different. BE creative and imaginative, BE leaders and innovators in your field. Make plans and decisions for this city that improve the quality of life of its residents, instead of destroying our neighborhoods. Explore alternatives to easing traffic congestion besides the same worn out, overused, ineffective choice. For example, re-engineering existing congested roads at busy intersections, like N. Nevada and Fillmore and N. Nevada and Uintah, with multi-lane roundabouts that keep traffic flowing in all directions, perhaps in conjunction with congestion pricing to discourage unnecessary travel during high traffic volume times. Create alternatives to driving that are more efficient, available and attractive. Incentivize employers to stagger in and out times for employees, and offer hybrid schedules if possible, so people don't have to drive into work 5 days a week.

As you know, planning a city is not only a science, but also an art form. PLEASE, as city planners for Colorado Springs, be the artists that explore ideas to beautify our city, instead of destroying the beauty that still exists.

Sincerely,
Amy Henry

Lobato, Elena

From: Lacey Jordan <lacey@legacywp.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Roberts, Tim; Lobato, Elena
Cc: Tracy Thornlow
Subject: Constitution Expressway - opposition
Attachments: Scanscan0036.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Hello,

I am one of the 2 owners of the building at 2510 N Cascade Ave, 80907. This proposed expressway would run immediately next to my property. This property purchase and renovation in 2019 was a large investment in this area of Colorado springs which is going through a revitalization. Not only did the purchase and renovation of this property help move the neighborhood forward (it had fallen into disrepair and the building itself was a drug den), but I also run my financial planning business at this location. If this expressway were to be installed, it would run adjacent to my conference room, where I have my client appointments. I would never have made this investment if there had been an expressway adjacent. This would also potentially damage my ability to continue to lease the 4 other units in my building – directly effecting my livelihood.

Additionally, I am a homeowner in the old north end – 1932 El Parque St, 80907 - and can't imagine the negative noise and traffic impact this would have to the area.

Please forward my email and the attached letter to the members of CTAB and the Planning Commission.

Lacey Jordan, CFP®, ChFC®, Financial Advisor
CA Insurance License #0I34612

Legacy Wealth Planners
2510 N Cascade Ave Suite 120
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Tel: [719-623-3552](tel:719-623-3552) | Fax: [719-623-3554](tel:719-623-3554)
lacey@legacywp.net | www.legacywp.net

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products and services offered through Legacy Wealth Planners or CES Insurance Agency.

Dear Planning Commission -

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meetings on January 5, 2023, and February 8, 2023.

As a resident of 1932 El Parque St, 80907 and the owner of the building at 2510 N Cascade Ave, which is immediately next to the proposed path, I would like to express my significant opposition to the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project (project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25. Having an expressway immediately next to my place of business, and large investment in this town, would have a huge negative effect on my client meetings and the value of my building.

I was surprised and disappointed to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list due to negative neighborhood impacts and significant opposition.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

- * Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway just steps from my home and business will dramatically exacerbate the noise pollution.
- * Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, I will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.
- * Multiple sources indicate that I will incur up to a 10% reduction in my property values if the expressway is constructed adjacent to my home.
- * It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the proposed expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park, trails, and wildlife.
- * I am concerned with the significant negative impacts that will result from ramming this proposed expressway through our historic neighborhoods.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods. I do not understand why improvements to Fillmore, which already connects I25 to Union isn't being considered as a much easier and less expensive (one would think) solution.

Sincerely,



Lacey Jordan (owner 2 Ladies LLC 2510 N Cascade Ave, 80907)

Lobato, Elena

From: Jeanne Knudson <jlknuds@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 2, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway Project in Connect COS Transportation Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear Ms. Lobato,

Please forward this email to each member of the Connect COS Planning Commission.

I am a resident of the 2400 Wood Ave Townhomes at Wood Ave and Jackson St. I bought my home a year ago for just under \$600,000 and have put a small fortune into remodeling it. I am now writing with my strong objection to the proposed Constitution Ave Extension Project from Union Blvd to I-25.

This projected road would be devastating to the character of this entire neighborhood and the northern part of Monument Valley Park. We residents who live here would be subjected to noise pollution and exhaust fumes as would the wildlife in this part of the park. There would be a dramatic reduction in property values in our townhome community and the entire area. Our quality of life living here would be hugely affected.

A thruway through this historic area is a terrible idea. Please remove this project from the proposed Connect COS Transportation Plan. It is a bad idea for downtown Colorado Springs, the Old North End, surrounding neighborhoods and Monument Valley Park from beginning to end,

Sincerely,

Jeanne L. Knudson
2348 Wood Ave
719-593-0464

Lobato, Elena

From: P J KULE <ESPAÑOL7@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: MY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AVENUE EXTENSION--a bad idea!

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Dear Ms. Lobato,

I recently sent the email below to my City Council representative, Nancy Henjum.

As someone who arrived too late to be admitted to Stratton Elementary School this Saturday for the meeting with City Planners regarding the Constitution Avenue proposed extension study, let me inform you that the negative sentiment was shared among those in attendance watching the Live Streamed Stratton meeting. There were cheers and applause for one after another intelligent and thoughtful comment AGAINST spending money for this unnecessary "study."

I will not repeat the excellent salient points that were made on Saturday AGAINST the Constitution Avenue extension idea—yet again—here it comes up like whack a mole! What can we do to bury this idea once and for all?! In your opinion, were the city planners listening to those in attendance? What is your take on the future of this study? Do we really need 400 MORE people in attendance to say, once again at yet another neighborhood meeting, how and why the extension is a BAD idea?! And PLEASE PLEASE tell me that you would NOT recommend to the City to undertake any more studies (wasted taxpayer money) of the BAD IDEA to extend Constitution Avenue.

PLEASE, PLEASE represent your district and spread the word for all of us that the Constitution Avenue extension is a BAD IDEA for about 400 intelligent reasons!

Could you forward this email to the Planning Commission? Thank you so very much!

Patricia Kule
2322 Wood Avenue
COS 80907
espanol7@msn.com
719-332-3122

Lobato, Elena

From: Andy Lyon <andyslyon@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 7:39 PM
To: Roberts, Tim; Lobato, Elena
Subject: Traffic plan
Attachments: Traffic plans concerns.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Tuesday, January 3, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at upcoming meetings.

As a resident of North Nevada for three decades, I am strongly opposed to the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25, as well as the designation of my street as a primary arterial.

Put an expressway next to a couple schools, really? In what universe does it make sense to expose young brains to more toxic exhaust fumes?

After destroying so many homes and neighborhoods over the years to build more lanes of traffic, isn't it about time we look into shrinking the impact of automobiles? How about investing in ways to make mass transit really convenient, and maybe even free, so we don't have to rely on cars? I live on a bus route and the noise of the buses doesn't bother me. The fact that y'all seem happy to run huge, empty buses all day long, does. Someone was forward looking in creating bike lanes on Cascade and downtown, let's be a bit more forward-leaning and innovative when it comes to the East-West traffic issue, please.

My opposition to the designation of Nevada as a primary arterial is more selfish. If denying me use of my driveway and street side parking is truly in the best interest of the city, then take the time to notify me and my neighbors and sell us on it. But don't present it as a fait accompli and tell me after the fact. That just engenders more distrust in government.

I encourage you to focus on creative, multi-modal plans to improve east-west traffic flow instead of more roads that will divide neighborhoods and be a huge negative impact to area schools.

Sincerely,

Andy Lyon

1419 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs CO 80907
719.650.3043

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at upcoming meetings.

As a resident of North Nevada for three decades, I am strongly opposed to the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25, as well as the designation of my street as a primary arterial.

Put an expressway next to a couple schools, really? In what universe does it make sense to expose young brains to more toxic exhaust fumes?

After destroying so many homes and neighborhoods over the years to build more lanes of traffic, isn't it about time we look into shrinking the impact of automobiles? How about investing in ways to make mass transit really convenient, and maybe even free, so we don't have to rely on cars? I live on a bus route and the noise of the buses doesn't bother me. The fact that y'all seem happy to run huge, empty buses all day long, does. Someone was forward looking in creating bike lanes on Cascade and downtown, let's be a bit more forward-leaning and innovative when it comes to the East-West traffic issue, please.

My opposition to the designation of Nevada as a primary arterial is more selfish. If denying me use of my driveway and street side parking is truly in the best interest of the city, then take the time to notify me and my neighbors and sell us on it. But don't present it as a fait accompli and tell me after the fact. That just engenders more distrust in government.

I encourage you to focus on creative, multi-modal plans to improve east-west traffic flow instead of more roads that will divide neighborhoods and be a huge negative impact to area schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Lyon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Lyon
1419 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs CO 80907
719.650.3043

Lobato, Elena

From: William McCord <drbillmccord70@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Our opposition to the proposed Constitution Avenue expressway project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear Ms Lobato,

We respectfully request that you forward the following rationale for rejecting the Constitution Avenue project to each Planning Commission member:

It is our understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meetings on January 5, 2023, and February 8, 2023.

As residents of 2400 Wood Avenue Townhomes, located at the corner of Wood Avenue and Jackson Street, we would like to express our strong opposition to the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project (project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25.

We were surprised and disappointed to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list due to negative neighborhood impacts and significant opposition.

We oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

* Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway just steps from our home will dramatically exacerbate the noise issue.

*

Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, we will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.

*

We will incur a dramatic reduction in our property value if the expressway is constructed adjacent to our home.

*

It is our understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the proposed expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park and wildlife.

*

We are concerned with the significant negative impacts that will result from ramming this proposed 4 – 6 lane expressway through our historic North End neighborhood.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **We urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

We encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

William and Amy McCord
2366 Wood Avenue

Lobato, Elena

From: Stephanie McCorkle <steph@RedMcNevis.net>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 3:21 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Hello Ms Lobato,

It is my understanding that the City is considering expanding Constitution Avenue into an expressway from Union Boulevard to I-25 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

As a resident of the neighborhoods that will be adjacent to the proposed expressway, I would like to express my significant opposition to this ill-conceived project (project #105).

I was surprised and very disappointed to learn this project is still being considered given the opposition that was recently expressed this past summer and it being removed from the proposed 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

*

Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway adjacent to my home will dramatically exacerbate the noise pollution.

*

Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, I will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.

*

I will incur a reduction in my property values if the expressway is constructed adjacent to my home.

*

I am concerned that by ramming this expressway through the proposed route, it will fracture our historic neighborhoods.

*

The expressway will be just steps from several of our local neighborhood schools.

*

It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park, trails, and wildlife.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods. I also respectfully request that you forward this email to the CTAB and the planning commission.

Sincerely,

Stephanie (and Wayne) McCorkle
2310 N El Paso Street

Lobato, Elena

From: Richard McKeown <rmck807458@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 3:34 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Fwd: Constitution expansion at neighborhood health expense.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Please review the attached email and forward to the members of the CTAB. The expansion was a bad idea 20+ years ago when it was previously discussed and it's an even worse car culture intensive idea today. Thanks Richard McKeown

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Richard McKeown** <rmck807458@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 2, 2023, 6:37 PM
Subject: Constitution expansion at neighborhood health expense.
To: Roberts, Tim <Tim.Roberts@coloradosprings.gov>, <AllCouncil@coloradosprings.gov>

This Constitution expansion is clearly a knuckle headed idea that will decimate an adjacent healthy neighborhood as well as impact the north end. It really serves no purpose other than to create the illusion of faster connection to i25 for suburbia. It will only increase speeding, collision and fatalities. I want you to forward these coments to the Citizen Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB). Instead of redoing/expanding tired old 1950s car culture road works, Colorado Springs needs to work on innovative transit solutions that people may actually use. Thanks. Richard McKeown

Lobato, Elena

From: LAURA MILLER <lalamill@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Oppose Constitution Expressway Project #105

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear City Leader,

I want to strongly express my opposition to this project proposal and the negative impact it will have to the quality of life to my historic neighborhood.

I oppose this project due to these primary reasons:

The close proximity to several local schools. This expressway will be **extremely close to an Elementary School and a Middle School that will endanger our local children.

**The increase in noise pollution and exhaust fumes. I and my neighbors already experience this to the North of us with Fillmore and with a Constitution Expressway we would then be “sandwiched” in between two major access roads adding to our overall environment and health concerns.

**Studies have shown that I can expect to experience a reduction in my property value due to an expressway being constructed close to my home. This is threatening to me since my home is a major source of income security for my retirement.

**By squeezing this expressway into the proposed route will cause additional traffic to “bleed” into the local neighborhoods as drivers get creative in creating “short cuts” to their destinations. Overall, this would mean an increase to traffic in our historic neighborhoods instead of a decrease.

**As a Senior Citizen this would cause me concerned about my ongoing ability to safely navigate my neighborhood, whether walking or driving, to access my local amenities.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major Negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this Project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this Project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic Neighborhoods.

**Please forward my email to the CTAB and the Planning commission.

Sincerely,

Laura Miller

Lobato, Elena

From: Erin Mueller <erinmueller9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:13 AM
To: Roberts, Tim; Lobato, Elena; Henjum, Nancy
Subject: Opposition to the Constitution Expressway Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear City Leader,

I have been a resident of the Kitty Hawk neighborhood for the last 10 years. I understand that the city is considering expanding Constitution Avenue into an expressway from Union Boulevard to I-25 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan. This project has been proposed multiple times and our citizens have opposed it due to the negative impacts. As recently as the past 6 months City leaders directed for this project to be removed from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority. I am extremely disappointed this project is still being considered and am expressing my opposition to this proposed project.

I am asking this this project be removed from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan based on the following concerns:

- The safety of the elementary and middle school students with the proximity of the expressway
- The adjacent neighborhoods will be exposed to an increase in noise pollution and exhaust fumes
- The city has received grants to complete the Legacy Loop Trail which would include a portion for the Rock Island Corridor. Green space and trails are extremely important and we would be losing this important space. This would pose increased safety risk for those that currently utilize the Rock Island Trail as pedestrians and cyclists.
- Significant reduction of my property value if this project is constructed adjacent to my home
- Accessibility between these historic neighborhoods for pedestrians would pose increased safety risks

I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan. Please forward this email to the CTAB and the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,
Erin Mueller

From: [Thomas Murawski](#)
To: [Lobato, Elena](#)
Cc: [Dutch Schulz](#); [Tim Wolken](#)
Subject: Build a Greenway, Not an Expressway
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 8:30:57 AM

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Good morning, Ms. Lobato. Please forward this email, with its pdf attachment, to members of the Planning Committee. Thank you!

Project 105 of ConnectCOS reads, “Conduct study to determine the feasibility to extend Constitution Avenue from Union Boulevard to I-25 as a limited access multi-modal roadway while minimizing neighborhood and school impacts.”

While we favor seeking feasible and prudent ways to treat east-west traffic, a Constitution Avenue extension isn’t one of them.

Our reasoning doesn’t focus on the usual objections such as excessive noise, air pollution and loss of home values, as important as these are. The most compelling case against the extension is that it would be ineffective (and very expensive). New roads attract more drivers. People take more trips and longer ones. They work and shop farther from home. And soon congestion returns. This has been the consistent finding of traffic research for decades. You can see for yourself by Googling on “induced demand.”

To ease congestion temporarily, a Constitution Avenue extension would fracture established neighborhoods permanently.

“You can’t build your way out of congestion,” said Tom Maziarz, chief of planning at the Connecticut DOT. Entry 4 in the attached bibliography indicts cities that try: “It’s irresponsible of governments to play on this very real frustration [traffic congestion] to get buy-in for something that won’t, in fact, offer any lasting change.”

Colorado Springs should abandon naive 1960s thinking and put the extension's route to use as a greenway. The Legacy Loop bike trail now under construction along the extension's route would have room to breathe. Beside this higher-speed trail could be meandering paths for walkers and joggers and benches for residents and visitors to meet. The greenway would showcase Colorado Springs as a city that prizes neighborhoods over yet another road.

Respectfully,

Tom Murawski, Vice President, 2400 Wood Avenue Homeowners Association, 719-660-4466

From: [Thomas Murawski](#)
To: [Lobato, Elena](#)
Cc: [Roberts, Tim](#)
Subject: File for agenda item 7.B
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:20:00 PM
Attachments: [Induced Demand, map, pic.pdf](#)

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Thanks so much, Elena, for being very helpful! I'm looking forward to making the case for removing the Constitution Avenue extension from the ConnectCOS east-west mobility study.

The file supports the most compelling case against the extension: it would be ineffective (and very expensive). New roads attract more drivers. People take more trips and longer ones. They work and shop farther from home. And soon congestion returns. This has been the consistent finding of traffic research for decades. Quoting from some of it in the attached annotated bibliography:

"If there's anything that traffic engineers have discovered in the last few decades it's that you can't build your way out of congestion."

"It's irresponsible of governments to play on this very real frustration [traffic congestion] to get buy-in for something that won't, in fact, offer any lasting change."

I understand that you'll pass the attached PDF file to the Commissioners by email today.

Tom Murawski, Vice President
2400 Wood Avenue homeowners association
(719) 660-4466

Build a Greenway, not an Expressway

([blue titles](#) are hyperlinks)

1. [What's Up With That: Building Bigger Roads Actually Makes Traffic Worse](#)

“The concept is called *induced demand*, which is economist-speak for when increasing the supply of something (like roads) makes people want that thing even more. . . . If there’s anything that traffic engineers have discovered in the last few decades it’s that you can’t build your way out of congestion. . . . The fundamental law of road congestion: New roads will create new drivers, resulting in the intensity of traffic staying the same.”

2. [If You Build It, the Cars \(and the Pollution\) Will Come](#)

“A rich body of research shows that the congestion reductions associated with road expansions are short-lived, generally fully evaporating after 5 to 10 years of use. On balance, the congestion benefits of road expansions ultimately cancel out because travel demand increases proportional to the new capacity—drivers respond to the newly open road space by engaging in more frequent and longer trips.

However, transportation planning processes typically underestimate this increase by as much as an order of magnitude, meaning that decision makers systematically overstate the benefits of road expansions, continuing a cycle of growth.

To decrease pollution, forward-looking transportation investments should be aimed at measures that would actually reduce traffic and boost accessibility. This means making investments that help create more inclusive, compact, mixed-use communities; that support walking, biking, and micro-mobility; and that expand and improve public transit.”

3. [Expanding highways and building more roads actually makes traffic worse](#)

“Building more roads and adding more lanes gives the appearance of speeding up traffic. But by encouraging sprawl, it spreads out stores, houses, and jobs, providing more reasons to drive more places and expanding many people’s commutes. . . . Even when cities build roads at a faster clip than population growth, congestion still gets worse.”

4. [Why building more highways won’t make your commute any better](#)

“More road space doesn’t speed up traffic. It does, however, create air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and a whole lot of paved surfaces. . . . It’s irresponsible of governments to play on this very real frustration [traffic congestion] to get buy-in for something that won’t, in fact, offer any lasting change.”

Further Reading

[CityLab University: Induced Demand](#)

[Highway Boondoggles 3](#)

[The Fundamental Law of Road Congestion and Its Implications for Transportation Policy](#)

[Increasing Highway Capacity Unlikely to Relieve Congestion](#)

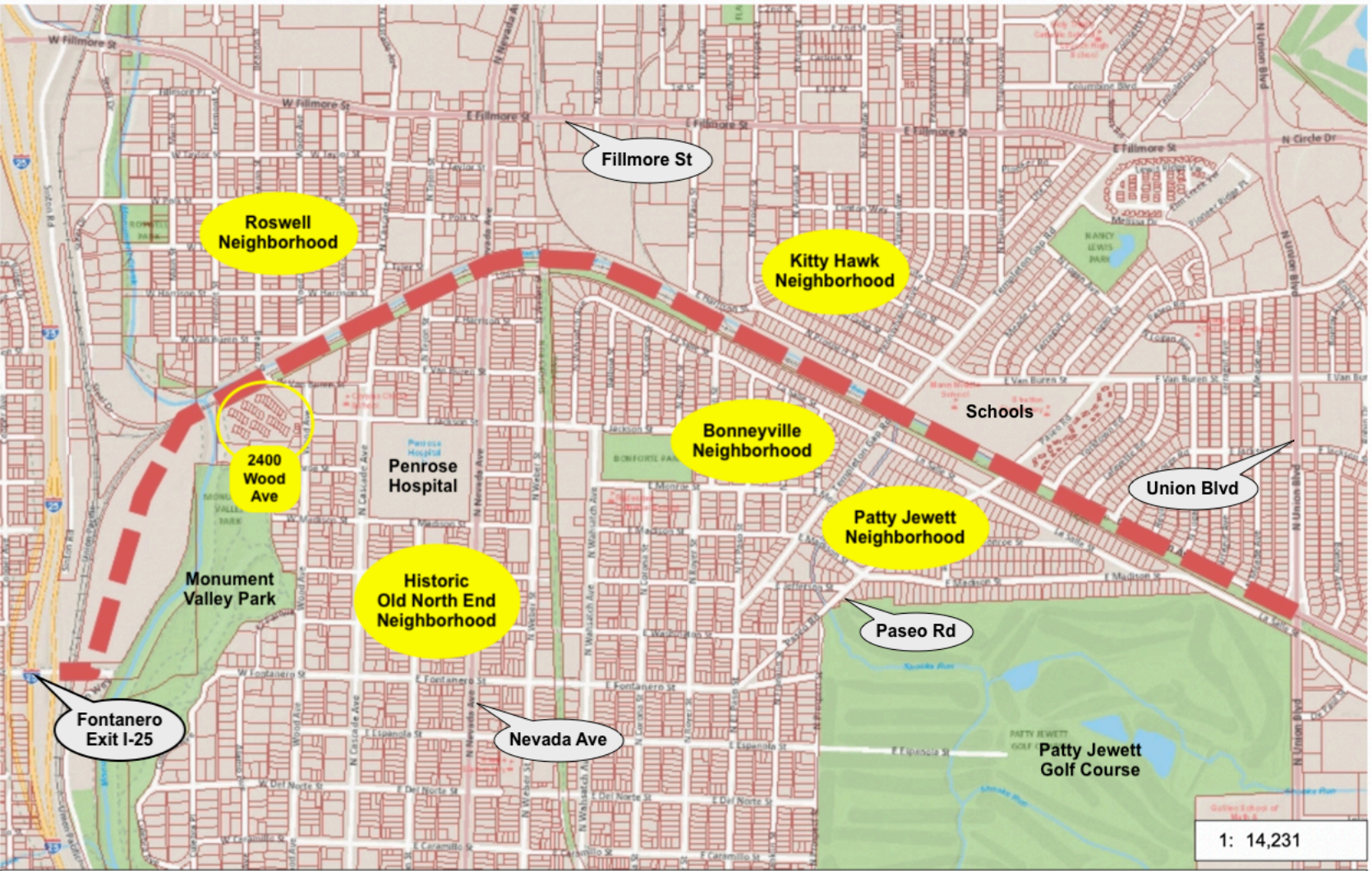
[Closing the Induced Vehicle Travel Gap Between Research and Practice](#)

[Generated Traffic and Induced Travel: Implications for Transport Planning](#)

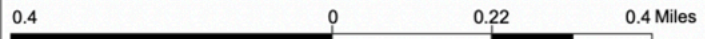
Distributed at town hall meetings on extending Constitution Ave, January 21 and February 4, 2023

If yours is a paper copy, an electronic version with the [blue titles](#) as hyperlinks is available by asking at TMurawski@icloud.com

Constitution Avenue Extension



1: 14,231



Some 225 pack the gym (and another 150 turned away)
at Town Hall on extending Constitution Ave, January 21, 2023



Lobato, Elena

From: Mark Nelson <jmarknelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Roberts, Tim; Lobato, Elena
Subject: Fwd: our objection letter to City Council regarding Constitution construction
Attachments: letter to Council regarding Constitution construction.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Nelson** <jmarknelson@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:37 AM
Subject: letter to Council regarding Constitution construction
To: <allcouncil@coloradosprings.gov>
Cc: <connectcos@coloradospringsgov.com>, Gloria <gcarnnelson@gmail.com>

City Council

Attached please find my letter reacting to ConnectCos intent to construct Constitution extension through our neighborhoods.
thank you

Mark

J. Mark Nelson, Architect, LLC cell/text 719.649.4175
2524 Balboa Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
719.578.9289 Office Msg

Dec. 6, 2022 Letter to City Council
Re: ConnectCos intent to construct Constitution extension
through our neighborhoods.

This letter is in reaction to the most recent Connect Cos draft which includes a new intent (project no's 105 and 106) to extend Constitution Ave westward from Paseo as a 4 lane Major Arterial along the north side of our once pastoral Bonnyville Neighborhood on what is currently railroad property and a trail. On the previous draft of 2021 and also on this 2022 draft the Rock Island Trail is marked/dashed in along this railroad and is designated for completion, and it is my understanding that the Parks Dept. has a plan for this trail and its landscaping. We walk along the unfinished path of this trail route every day, as it is 5 houses away from us. This path also travels east-west behind the yards of many dozens of my neighbors' homes that were originally built along La Salle street in the late 1940's for veterans returning from WWII. All of this peaceful, walkable, bikeable setting, and in fact all of our entire traditional neighborhood, is now threatened by the City traffic planners' reckless idea to bulldoze in a 4 lane Major Arterial here, similar to Austin Bluffs Parkway, for no valid reason at all. In fact while the trail is definitely acknowledged by the Transportation engineers this route has never before been mentioned or remotely suggested on any valid city plan as being a 'critical corridor' for such an unfortunate and needless roadway for vehicles. We recently downsized to our current period style cottage from our turn of the last century grand victorian home in the Old North End precisely to escape the horrendous traffic dumped on to Nevada Avenue by the city traffic engineers and planners. And now the quiet, peaceful Bonnyville Neighborhood where we chose to carefully remodel and fit our current storybook style cottage into is being threatened by those same callous traffic engineers and planners. The traffic engineers' wild dreams for unlimited connectivity are out of place here, and serve no real useful purpose other than to complete some abstract exercise in drawing Major Arterial lines racing around everywhere.

Dec 6 2022 Page 2: continued reaction to ConnectCos intent to construct Constitution extension through our neighborhoods.

The history of this Bonnyville Neighborhood, with its charming tree-lined lanes is rich and important, as are the Patty Jewett/LaSalle and Kitty Hawk Neighborhoods to the east and the north, as well as of course the Old North End Neighborhood to the west. All of these historic neighborhoods are contiguous to this old, old railway, and they all remain as some of the most well preserved, intact and quietly livable neighborhoods in the country, in spite of the city engineers and planners efforts to the contrary.

Bonnyville may in fact be one of the first planned neighborhoods in the country created immediately after WWII to provide affordable and comfortable housing for the families of the military returning after bravely serving their country.

Having professionally written the North end Master Plan for the Old North end Neighborhood which was unanimously approved and adopted by the Mayor and City Council, City Planning Commission, the Parks Department and the Historic Board in 1991 my wife Gloria and I have a unique appreciation for what is important for Bonnyville and our adjoining neighborhoods, and our city, and is not to arbitrarily create another meaningless swath of asphalt and concrete for vehicles that will only serve to destroy our homes and lives here.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mark Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

J. Mark Nelson, Architect
2524 Balboa Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907
cell/text 719.649.4175

Lobato, Elena

From: Mark Reynolds <mlreyncom@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Planning Commission Review of Draft ConnectCOS Plan on 5 January 2023

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Hello Ms Lobato,

I am trying to reach members of the Colorado Springs Planning Commission regarding the review of the Draft ConnectCOS Transportation Plan scheduled for 5 January 2023. Would you be so kind as to forward this email to all members?

Thank you,
Mark Reynolds
Wood Avenue, Colorado Springs

Dear Planning Commission Member,

I am a 30-year resident of the 2400 Wood Avenue Townhomes, located at the corner of Wood Avenue and Jackson Street and within the boundaries of the Old North End Neighborhood. I would like to register my fervent opposition to the Constitution Avenue Extension project described within the November 2022 Draft ConnectCOS Transportation Plan (The Plan) and enumerated in the project list in Appendix A.

As you most likely already know, this project was originally included in the list of PPRTA projects to be voted on in the November 2022 election to extend the current PPRTA sales tax. However, significant opposition from those who would be negatively affected by this project (myself included) persuaded the Colorado Springs City Council to remove it from the PPRTA list. It now appears that the ballot item modification was merely to dampen opposition to the tax extension (which it did, and the measure passed easily), as the project has again surfaced as part of The Plan.

My objections to the Constitution Avenue Extension Project include the following:

- Our neighborhood already suffers greatly from noise pollution as a consequence of 30 years of development in the area: a 24x7 heliport supporting the Penrose Trauma Center only one block away; widening of I-25 to six lanes and the increase in the roadway's speed limit from 55 to 65 mph; and a significant increase in rail traffic on the UP/BNSF rail lines just West of our location. Further, two additional I-25 lanes have already been cleared by the 2004 CDOT Environmental Impact Study but have yet to be planned or funded. The additional noise from a new Constitution Avenue extension, mere feet from our community's northern boundary, would be unbearable.

- Roadway noise is not just a nuisance - studies have shown that it is a major psychological stress-producer, with life-shortening effects comparable to exposure to secondhand smoke and Radon gas.
- Air pollution from the exhaust of several thousand vehicles daily would further degrade our air quality, with potentially negative consequences for our health.
- My property value, as well as that of everyone in our community, would be negatively affected, perhaps substantially so, depending upon the project design. Based on the County Assessor's 2022 data, the average unit market value in our community exceeds \$425,000 and the total market value of all units exceeds \$16M. I, and many of my neighbors, have invested a significant portion of our lives as well as our life savings into our homes. Studies have shown that property depreciation due to proximity to a new highway is proportional to the increase in ambient noise level over pre-construction levels, and could be as much as 10%.
- While by law the project could not directly encroach on Monument Valley Park, its proximity to both the park and the Monument Valley Trail would severely diminish the enjoyment of those amenities.
- The proposed "limited access facility", as it is designated in the Plan, would have few to no access points other than at its terminating ends. Thus, our neighborhood would bear all of the negative consequences of such a roadway without gaining any tangible benefits.
- I have already provided comments to the ConnectCOS Team, and have received a response from them. They explain that all other existing east-west routes are already highly stressed and that other alternatives, such as Fillmore, Uintah, and Cache La Poudre Streets have been examined and found to have major complications, and that a study is needed to determine the feasibility of the Constitution Ave route. I submit that nearly any project can be made to appear feasible through manipulation of its definition and scope. This is what I expect would happen with the Constitution Avenue Extension. It would be defined in such a way as to placate concerns of the affected residents while meeting expected cost limitations. However, once implemented, it would continue to expand in usage, capacity, and negative impact over time. I further submit that any project that is judged to be technically and financially feasible is on the whole not so if it destroys the well-being of existing neighborhoods. Perhaps planners should consider alternatives to the seemingly-unending eastward expansion of the city's boundary.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Constitution Avenue Extension project be removed from The Plan, and that a moratorium be placed on the project's future consideration.

Thank You,
Mark Reynolds
2324 Wood Ave

From: [Darleen Schroeder](#)
To: [Lobato, Elena](#)
Subject: Fwd: Oppose Constituion Avenue expansion
Date: Monday, January 16, 2023 1:13:44 PM

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Dear Elena Lobato,

It is my understanding that the City is considering expanding Constitution Avenue into an expressway from Union Boulevard to I-25 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan. As a resident of the historic neighborhoods that will be adjacent to the proposed expressway, I would like to express my significant opposition to this ill-conceived project (project #105). I was surprised and disappointed to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

*

Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from Union, I-25, Fillmore, Nevada,

Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway adjacent to my home will dramatically exacerbate the noise pollution.

*

Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, I will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.

*

Multiple sources indicate that I will incur up to a 10% reduction in my property values if the expressway is constructed adjacent to my home.

*

I am concerned that by ramming this expressway through the proposed route, it will fracture our historic neighborhoods.

*

The expressway will be just steps from several of our local neighborhood schools.

*

It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park, trails, and wildlife.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits.

I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan. I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Darleen Schroeder
1211 E Madison

Lobato, Elena

From: Nadia Seymour <somethinglikeapersonality@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 7:30 PM
To: Roberts, Tim; Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution avenue

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Tim and Elena

Thanks for your time to read my email. I am writing in support of the constitution ave extension plans. It's rare that a growth proposal can achieve its goals with minimal disruption.

As a nearby resident I would like to express my approval for the proposed plan to extend constitution to I-25. This is an elegant proposal to improve the East-West travel and improve flow to and from the downtown area which is growing as desired. There are few good routes to connect I-25 and Powers which have become the main economic hubs of the city.

The proposed plan only impacts a non-used railroad line and makes no route impact to the surrounding neighborhoods. The congestion on Uintah and Filmore are getting worse and worse every year, this should help take the burden off those overcrowded intersections.

This city suffers from prior planners and city councils not planning big enough in combination with a minority of whiny citizens blocking efforts to grow smart because they don't want any change, denying the needs of a growing city. The result is a city with pent up needs for upgrades and rebuilding. Unfortunately, this usually requires areas to decay severely before there is an opportunity to improve without political opposition.

Woodman and Austin Bluffs are not reasonable alternatives, the alternatives are just keep pushing more cars on Filmore which is already overburdened and turns ambiguously into Circle then Constitution. Or Uintah which is already overburdened and is very narrow at times. It also dead ends at Circle which you then have to traverse over to Constitution. Basically we are waiting till traffic is so bad that we implement the proposed Constitution route that should already be in place by now.

The road doesn't go through any historic neighborhoods and is of no impact to them. This argument is dead on arrival. The traffic currently going through Fontanero-Constitution is already more impactful to the families on that route than the proposal would impact the people of the Wood Avenue Condos.

Opponents are not proposing alternate options because there are no better alternative options. Any alternative will be more likely to incite imminent domain with the destruction of "historic" houses, cause more noise and pollution issues to a larger population base. And in all likelihood push negative effects toward a more disadvantaged population base, (this is the more well-to-do pushing externalities on to less well-to-do who are also less likely to be represented in the discussion of where additional traffic capacity should be placed.)

Please forward this **email to the members of CTAB and the Planning Commission.**

Thanks

G & N Seymour

Lobato, Elena

From: Donald Verhaeghe <donverhaeghe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 9:37 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Opposition to Constitution Expressway Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear Elena,
Please forward this to all members of the Planning Commission.
Thank you,
Don Verhaeghe

Dear Planning Commission -

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meetings on January 5, 2023, and February 8, 2023.

As a resident of the Old North End Neighborhood (ONEN), I vehemently oppose the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project (project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25.

I am very angry to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list due to negative neighborhood impacts and significant opposition. I cannot understand why this ludicrous idea will not die.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

- * The ONEN is a nationally recognized historic neighborhood with other significant neighborhoods in proximity. An expressway project is NOT compatible with this area and should NEVER be considered again.
- * Multiple sources indicate that property values will reduce by up to 10% if the expressway is constructed through the neighborhood.
- * It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the proposed expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park, trails, and wildlife.
- * I am concerned with the significant negative impacts that will result from ramming this proposed expressway through our historic neighborhoods.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project clearly outweighs the project benefits.

I implore you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,

Donald Verhaeghe
N. Nevada Ave.

Lobato, Elena

From: Donald Verhaeghe <donverhaeghe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 7:31 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway Project
Attachments: Planning Commission Member.docx

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Dear Ms. Lobato,

Please see the attached document voicing my extreme displeasure of the proposed Constitution Expressway project. Please forward this to all Planning Commission members.

Sincerely,

Don Verhaeghe

Dear Planning Commission Member -

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meeting on February 8, 2023.

As a resident of the Old North End Neighborhood (ONEN), I vehemently oppose the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project (project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25.

I am very angry to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list due to negative neighborhood impacts and significant opposition. I cannot understand why this ludicrous idea will not die.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

- * The ONEN is a nationally recognized historic neighborhood with other significant neighborhoods in proximity. An expressway project is NOT compatible with this area and should NEVER be considered again.
- * Multiple sources indicate that property values will reduce by up to 10% if the expressway is constructed through the neighborhood.
- * It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the proposed expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park, trails, and wildlife.
- * I am concerned with the significant negative impacts that will result from ramming this proposed expressway through our historic neighborhoods.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project clearly outweighs the project benefits.

I implore you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,

Donald Verhaeghe
N. Nevada Ave.

Lobato, Elena

From: Christie Williams <Coloradochristie@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 3:15 PM
To: Lobato, Elena; Roberts, Tim
Subject: Constitution push through

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I have lived here all my life, and a my family lives here. We have been awesome contributors to this community for 60 years. From award winning teachers, award winning developers and realtors, to non-profit workers to better this city, we have worked tirelessly for this city.

Now my own family and I continue to contribute to this city.

My husband and chose Bonnyville to live in because it is historical, quiet and established. I don't think it is ethical for the city to disturb a group of historic neighbors that are quiet and established for the "betterment and safer roads" for "all" citizens. It is not our fault that the city allowed irresponsible urban sprawl out East, the people using this road don't care about the neighborhoods here, won't watch their speed or street racing, don't care about downtown, the history here. They don't care about the schools or the noise and pollution. No

Matter what you propose for this, sound walls, digging down, 35 miles per hour, etc. it will ruin our neighborhoods and you know it will.

We have fought this twice over the past 22 years and I am sick of it. Figure something else out.

Also calling this low income housing over here is ridiculous. Per square foot there is more value than many places.

Thank you for your time,

Christie Williams

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Lobato, Elena

From: outlook_152D16BB2427BB82@outlook.com <jlroma7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 7:16 PM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear City Leader -

It is my understanding that the City is considering expanding Constitution Avenue into an expressway from Union Boulevard to I-25 in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.

As a new resident of the historic neighborhoods that will be adjacent to the proposed expressway, I was seriously concerned to hear of this project and I would like to express my significant opposition to this ill-conceived project (project #105).

I did not know this project was being considered when we recently spent ~\$1M on our new house which would only be ~1 block from the new expressway. If we had know this project was even in consideration, we would not have invested in living in the Old North End anywhere near the project. I have wanted nothing more than to be back down in the O.N.E. since moving in 2018. This neighborhood is such a Colorado Springs landmark, and to ruin it with an expressway that is not necessary is abdominal.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

- * I love this historic neighborhood, and can't imagine it being ruined with a forced in expressway to basically nowhere.
- * I used to live in the neighborhood that would be connected (Audubon) and was never in need of a faster way to the highway, there is already 2 outlets to get to I-25 currently in place.
- * Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway adjacent to my home will dramatically exacerbate the noise pollution.
- * Losing upwards of 10% of my homes value, while already seeing a reduction since our purchase, due to the looming recession, while then making us want to move due to the noise
- * I am concerned that by ramming this expressway through the proposed route, it will fracture our historic neighborhoods and remove the walkability from the O.N.E to several of the new businesses in

the Lincoln Center and beyond; I lived through the MLK bypass expansion and watched the shopping centers and local restaurants on Fountain suffer due to that expressway

- * The expressway will be just steps from several of our local neighborhood schools.
- * The city should have considered traffic congestion as it continued and still continues to expand east away from I-25 as it was building those neighborhoods; making the older neighborhoods suffer for the new is not the right way to handle the traffic situation – building a circular bypass out east to connect the east to I-25 instead

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Jessica Williams
2312 N Cascade Ave

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Lobato, Elena

From: telnetlance@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:07 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: 105

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Lance Williams (owner)
1404 East La Salle St. Colorado Springs CO
(510)846-1183
telnetlance@aol.com

Re: 105

This project benefits nobody living in this old and historic neighborhood.

Prop 105 will in fact cause harm to our community and wildlife by dividing this area with a concrete river, which will increase noise and pollution. If approved, the project will attract people who drive too fast and run red lights, putting all residents at great risk.

This project will devastate existing green space.

The noise and pollution will destroy scarce and valuable water runoff area, trees, and brush, all of which are needed now more than ever. It will destroy the homes and feeding areas for winged and four-legged animals. It will render the Rock Island bike trail useless.

This project will negatively impact the property value and “quiet enjoyment” of the people who live in these areas..

What is the plan to compensate our community members for their loss?

Please develop an alternate plan.

The only people who will use this space will be those who do not live in this area. Why was an east/west corridor not built before permitting new construction requiring it? Prop 105 is a backwards and dangerous reaction rather than a forward-thinking plan.

I respectfully urge you to not approve of this plan.

**Please forward this to all appropriate members of the
planning commission**

Lobato, Elena

From: Tim Wolken <timwolken218@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Good morning Ms. Lobato –

I would appreciate if the email below can be forwarded to all Planning Commission members.

Thanks –

Tim Wolken

Dear Planning Commission Member –

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meetings on January 5, 2023, and February 8, 2023.

As a resident of 2400 Wood Avenue Townhomes, located at the corner of Wood Avenue and Jackson Street, I would like to express my significant opposition to the proposed Constitution Expressway Project (project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25 that is included in the ConnectCOS plan.

I was surprised and disappointed to learn this project is still being considered. Staff has proposed the expressway several times in the past and City leaders have abandoned the project due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Pike Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list due to negative neighborhood impacts and significant opposition.

I oppose the inclusion of this project in the Transportation Plan based on the following:

* Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway just steps from my home will dramatically exacerbate the noise pollution.

* Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, I will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental

impacts.

* I will incur a dramatic reduction in my property value if the expressway is constructed adjacent to my home.

* It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the proposed expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park and wildlife.

* I am concerned with the significant negative impacts that will result from ramming this proposed 4 – 6 lane expressway through our historic neighborhoods.

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project

benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.**

I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus pouring more asphalt in our historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Tim Wolken

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Lobato, Elena

From: VW <wolkenv@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 10:02 AM
To: Lobato, Elena
Subject: Constitution Expressway Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CPC

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Dear Planning Commission Member, in addition to your kind attention to my concern below, would you please forward me each Planning Commission member's contact e-mail. Thank you kindly.

It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will consider the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan at your meetings on January 5, 2023, and February 8, 2023.

As a resident of 2400 Wood Avenue Townhomes, located at the corner of Wood Avenue and Jackson Street, I would like to express my **significant opposition** to the proposed Constitution Avenue Expressway Project (project #105) from Union Boulevard to Interstate 25.

I was shocked to learn this project is still being considered. This project has been proposed several times in the past and abandoned due to significant neighborhood impacts and citizen opposition. The project was most recently proposed in the 2025 – 2034 Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) list of capital projects and once again, City leaders directed staff to remove the project from the PPRTA list due to negative neighborhood impacts and significant opposition.

I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan. Here is why:

- * Our area currently suffers from significant noise pollution from forever-roaring I-25, Fillmore, Nevada, Uintah and other busy residential streets. Constructing an expressway just steps from my home will dramatically exacerbate the noise issue.
- * Coupled with an increase in noise pollution, I will also be impacted by exhaust fumes and other environmental impacts.
- * After a lifetime of working and saving, I will incur a dramatic reduction in my property value if the expressway is constructed adjacent to my home.
- * It is my understanding that the proposed route cannot directly impact Monument Valley Park due to legal constraints. However, the proximity of the proposed expressway will negatively impact the enjoyment of the park and wildlife. Have you walked the trails in the park since the expansion of I-25? Can you honestly say that you don't hear it?

* How many historic neighborhoods do we have left in our community that we are so reckless in ramming this proposed 4 – 6 lane expressway through?

When considering the significant design and construction costs coupled with the major negative influences on our neighborhoods and property values, the negative impacts of this project significantly outweighs the project benefits. **I urge you to direct staff to remove this project from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.** I encourage staff to focus on improvements to existing roadways to enhance east – west traffic flows and creative multi-modal opportunities versus destroying our historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Veronica Wolken