

## **Accelerating Funding for Powers Boulevard Interchanges at Dublin and Stetson Hills**

### **Introduction**

The Powers Boulevard (CO-21) corridor is a critical north-south transportation route for El Paso County and the Pikes Peak region. The intersections at Dublin Boulevard and Stetson Hills Boulevard are two of the corridor's most pressing chokepoints. The PPACG 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) identifies both as fiscally constrained projects, with estimated costs of \$68 million (Dublin) and \$71 million (Stetson Hills). Given rapid regional growth, safety concerns, and economic impacts, funding and construction should be accelerated well before 2050.

### **Problem**

Currently, Dublin and Stetson Hills remain at-grade intersections, producing:

- High crash risks due to conflict points and congestion.
- Daily delays that undermine the efficiency of Powers as an alternative to I-25.
- Limited emergency response times and reduced accessibility for residents.
- Bottlenecks that discourage economic growth in rapidly developing northern Colorado Springs.

### **Why Acceleration Is Necessary**

1. **Safety:** Grade-separated interchanges would substantially reduce conflict points, improving safety for drivers and pedestrians.
2. **Mobility:** Removing bottlenecks enhances Powers' role as a regional relief corridor to I-25.
3. **Growth:** Residential and commercial expansion is outpacing transportation capacity.
4. **Regional Alignment:** These interchanges are already prioritized in the LRTP, ensuring consistency with existing planning and funding frameworks.
5. **Economic Benefit:** Improved efficiency reduces fuel waste, supports local business, and facilitates goods movement.

### **Recommendation**

CDOT should work with PPACG and regional partners to:

- Advance the Dublin and Stetson Hills interchanges into earlier funding cycles.
- Leverage state, federal, and local sources (including IIJA/BIL funds) to expedite construction.
- Treat these interchanges as top safety and mobility priorities in El Paso County.

## Conclusion

The need for Dublin and Stetson Hills interchanges is urgent and well-documented. Accelerating these projects will improve safety, reduce congestion, and ensure that the Powers corridor keeps pace with regional growth. Funding these interchanges sooner rather than later is not just good policy — it is essential for the mobility and prosperity of the Pikes Peak region.

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