

# DRAFT

March 26, 2019

Great Outdoors Colorado Board of Directors  
Great Outdoors Colorado  
1900 Grant Street, Suite 725  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: High Plains Trail/Cherry Creek Regional Trail Connection Project

Dear Members of the Board and Staff:

The High Plains Trail/Cherry Creek Regional Trail Connection Project is the most significant trail construction project occurring in Arapahoe County at this time. The easternmost portion of the Denver Metro Area - especially the area surrounding E-470 within Arapahoe and Douglas Counties - is largely isolated from the rest of the Denver Metro Area's bicycle and pedestrian network. The High Plains Trail Connection project will complete a major missing link and provide invaluable off-street access to many regional trails, including the Cherry Creek, Piney Creek, Centennial Trail, and Triple Creek Trails. It will also link up to many local/neighborhood trails, parks, and open spaces.

The proposed project directly benefits the City of Aurora, City of Centennial, Town of Parker, and surrounding residents located in unincorporated Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. Nearly 25,000 people live within a mile of the project, and estimates show that the area's population will grow by over 12,000 more people in the next 20 years. Many of these residents have limited access to trails. Currently, no trail connection exists between the Town of Parker and the communities of Aurora, Centennial, and unincorporated Arapahoe County located to the northeast. This project will also directly connect Aurora residents - especially those living in the future Kings Point development - to the historic 17 Mile House Farm Park.

The project will complete one of the largest missing regional trail connections in the Denver Metro Area, and it will directly connect tens of thousands of residents (who currently lack off-street access) to the larger Denver regional trail network.

A grant through GOCO's Connect Initiative will further leverage state and local dollars to complete the project. We strongly encourage GOCO to join us in this significant regional trail effort.

Sincerely,

Jeff Baker, Chair of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners