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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Tuesday, October 17, 2017, the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Denver passed a resolution strongly condemning the present plan to expand Interstate 70 through Denver. The resolution condemned the social and environmental injustice posed by the project, as well as the irreparable harm it presents, and urged fulsome consideration of alternative options to expand I-76 and I-270 instead. The resolution passed overwhelmingly.

Meanwhile, on Monday, October 16, 2017, various citizen-plaintiffs offered a flurry of filings in two cases related to the project. In a federal case asserting the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) and the Federal Highway Administration’s (“FHWA”) failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, a plaintiff group led by developer Kyle Zeppelin responded to CDOT and FHWA’s motion to dismiss their case, offering sworn statements of two sitting Denver City Councilmembers to rebut a statement offered by City Engineer Lesley Thomas that Denver will proceed with its controversial “Platte to Park Hill” drainage project—which the plaintiffs assert is directly tied to the I-70 expansion—even if CDOT is enjoined from paying the \$60 million it has committed to contributing to that project.

Also on Monday, in a separate case that went to trial in August and is awaiting decision by a state court judge, a plaintiff group led by former Colorado Attorney General J.D. MacFarlane provided the court with an update on the urgency of a decision and pressed for an immediate injunction concerning Denver’s proposal to reconstruct City Park Golf Course to serve as a flood-control area. Denver has announced its plan to proceed with cutting down 261 trees in the Golf Course by November 1st, 2017, regardless of whether Judge David Goldberg has issued a ruling by that time on the legality of using the Golf Course—which is designated parkland entitled to protection under the Denver Charter. The plaintiffs in the state case will appear in court on October 26, at 2:30 PM, in Denver District Court to plead their case.

Attorney Aaron Goldhamer, who is representing both groups of plaintiffs, stated “It is troubling that the City would have such disregard for the judicial process that they would march ahead with a challenged project without awaiting a determination of its legality.”

Recent reporting concerning Denver’s plan in the Golf Course is available at the following links:

<http://www.9news.com/news/local/unless-a-judge-says-no-city-park-golf-course-to-close-for-construction/483415619>

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2017/10/15/golf-course-redesign-controversy/>

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/front-range/denver/city-park-golf-course-redesign-unveiled-261-trees-marked-for-removal>

<http://www.denverpost.com/2017/10/14/community-members-golfers-city-meet-city-park-golf-course-project-set-start-nov-1/>