



WHEREAS, the current Denver County Jail System is operating at more than 130 percent of capacity, resulting in deplorable conditions at the pre-detention facility and the Smith Road County Jail Complex, that has caused the jail system to lose its national accreditation; and

WHEREAS, the location of the current pre-detention facility and courtrooms in the Denver City and County building require the transportation of inmates from the jail complex at Smith Road into downtown, with all inmate movements taking place at street level, and within the City and County building, in a situation that constitutes both real and perceived safety risks; and

WHEREAS, both a national panel from the Urban Land Institute, and a local citizen task force have recommended the construction of a new 1,500-bed detention facility, and a new courthouse, along with a parking structure on three blocks of Colfax Avenue (at the site of the city-owned Rocky Mountain News building) in Downtown Denver at a cost of \$378 million; and

WHEREAS, the pre-detention and courthouse buildings will be connected via an underground tunnel, the perceived and real safety risk of inmate movements at street level and within the City and County building will be eliminated, and the new facilities will greatly reduce the need for transportation movements between the Smith Road facility and new downtown facilities, and

WHEREAS, in the development and construction of the new buildings, the City has committed to an architectural design competition to ensure the new buildings will respect the historical context of the Civic Center District, and will be complimentary to Downtown;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board of directors of the Denver Chapter of the AIA supports the May 3 ballot initiative and encourages voters and the City and County of Denver to approve it.

ADOPTED the 7th day of April, 2005

On behalf of the AIA Denver Board of Directors,

Martha Bennett, AIA
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