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Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 9:09 AM

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Subject: Downtown Mobility Master Plan

Dear Town Council members,

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your service. It is a hard job that includes long hours, making difficult decisions and understanding complex issues. I appreciate your efforts.

I cannot be at tonight's council meeting but I wanted to lend my support to the passage and implementation of the proposed Downtown Mobility Master Plan. Downtown is the heart and soul of Castle Rock. The heart of a human must be strong for the rest of the body to operate and function properly and effectively. The soul is what makes it special and unique. Towns operate the same way.

I want to congratulate Tom Reiff and his team for putting together a very thorough and complete plan that takes into consideration all the issues affecting our downtown district. They did a fantastic job of taking a complex plan and boiling it down into digestible parts that will make it easier to fund and implement.

I understand there are many projects calling for your attention and budget allocation, most notably the I-25 interchange at Crystal Valley. That said, I implore you not to ignore the heart of the body.

The issues affecting how and whether people come downtown continue grow. And that is good thing. People are moving here. Businesses continue to operate and new ones are coming to town all the time. Residents and visitors alike want to come downtown to socialize, do business, shop and participate in the myriad events that take place all year long.

To keep the wheels on the bus (to use a transportation analogy here), we must make sure we are paying attention to the wear, tear and usage of the vehicle. As a downtown business owner, I strongly support the underwriting and execution this plan -- and sooner rather than later.

It will be good for business. It will be good for residents. It will be good for visitors. And all that means it will be good for the town. (Full disclosure: My husband and I own a store in the downtown district but our home is outside Castle Rock's formal boundaries. Nonetheless, we consider Castle Rock our home.)

Thank you for your consideration and care of the downtown district. As many of you know, we have been ardent and active participants in the continued vitality of the area for the past two decades. We believe it is a special place that requires special attention and we are happy to play our part. It is our fervent hope the council moves to implement this plan quickly and with the zeal it deserves.

Warm regards,
KC Neel

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