
After Action Report Federal Advocacy Trip to Washington, DC March 18-19, 2026

Commerce City leaders recently traveled to Washington, DC to meet with federal officials and advocate for the City's priorities. The trip was highly successful and created new opportunities to bring federal resources back to Commerce City, focusing on **public safety, housing, infrastructure, and environmental investment**.

What We Accomplished

Advancing Solutions to Railroad Blockages

City leaders met with federal transportation officials to address ongoing railroad blockage issues that impact traffic, safety, and emergency response.

- The federal government is offering new tools to help track and respond to blocked crossings
- Officials are willing to help facilitate conversations with railroads
- New grant funding and potential federal funding requests can support long-term solutions

What this means: Commerce City now has a clear path to pursue real solutions to reduce train-related delays and improve safety.

Unlocking New Federal Funding Opportunities

One of the most important outcomes of the trip was identifying a new **multi-agency federal funding opportunity** led by the U.S. Army.

- This approach brings together multiple federal agencies to support projects that combine:
 - Environmental cleanup
 - Water infrastructure
 - Transportation improvements
- Commerce City could serve as a **pilot community** for this effort
- The City is exploring hosting a **federal town hall** to bring agencies and residents together

What this means: Instead of competing for smaller, separate grants, Commerce City could access **larger, coordinated federal investments**.

Strengthening Housing and Community Development Efforts

City leaders worked closely with federal housing officials to ensure Commerce City remains aligned with federal housing priorities.

- Strong alignment with federal goals around:
 - Housing development

- Community investment
- Support for residents experiencing housing instability
- The City will work with HUD to resolve a technical issue related to federal funding requirements

What this means: Commerce City is well-positioned to continue receiving federal support for housing and neighborhood development.

Expanding Environmental and Infrastructure Investment

Federal agencies expressed a strong interest in supporting Commerce City's environmental and infrastructure goals.

- Opportunities identified for:
 - Environmental restoration
 - Water quality improvements
 - Long-term infrastructure investment
- Federal officials are interested in visiting Commerce City, including the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, to explore these opportunities further

What this means: Commerce City is gaining attention as a priority location for federal investment in environmental and infrastructure projects.

Building Support for Public Safety and Innovation

Federal leaders responded positively to Commerce City's commitment to **data-driven public safety and innovation**.

- Interest in the City's use of data to guide public safety decisions
- Support for improving rail safety and reducing risks
- Opportunities to use new technology and tools to improve infrastructure monitoring

What this means: Commerce City is being recognized as a forward-thinking community focused on safety and smart solutions.

Positioning Commerce City as a Regional Leader

Federal partners increasingly see Commerce City as a **regional gateway**, a place where transportation, economic development, and environmental priorities come together.

- Strong support for continued **economic investment** in the city
- Recognition of Commerce City's strategic location and growth potential

What this means: Commerce City is well-positioned to compete for future federal funding and investment.

What Happens Next

Over the coming months, the City will:

- Work with federal partners to advance railroad solutions
- Develop a proposal for new multi-agency funding opportunities

- Continue coordination on housing and environmental projects
 - Engage with federal officials through upcoming meetings and potential visits to Commerce City
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Bottom Line

This trip delivered real results. Commerce City strengthened key federal relationships, identified new funding opportunities, and advanced solutions to important local challenges.

We are well-positioned to bring federal resources back to Commerce City and continue building a safer, stronger, and more connected community.



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