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REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Plans For Staging The 1976 Winter Olympic Games In Colorado 8 735232

BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES WASHING TON, D.C. 20548

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Dear Mr Chairman

In response to your request of April 28, 1972, this is our report on the plans for staging the 1976 winter Olympic games in Colorado

Our principal observations are summarized in the digest at the beginning of the report. We have not obtained comments on our report from the Department of the Interior, the Denver Organizing Committee for the 1976 Winter Olympics, Inc., or the other organizations involved in planning the games.

The information that we have been able to obtain within the time limitations of our review generally covers planning activities through July 1972 Subsequent changes in the planning for the games may have occurred, or may subsequently occur, which could affect the completeness and currency of the information in our report.

We shall make no further distribution of this report until we have obtained your agreement or public announcement has been made by you concerning its contents

Sincerely yours,

Elmes P. Starts

Comptroller General of the United States

The Honorable Wayne N Aspinall Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs House of Representatives

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	<u>ABBREVIATIONS</u>	
A&E	architectural and engineering	
COC	Colorado Olympics Commission	
COC, Inc.	Colorado Olympic Commission, Inc.	
DOC	The Denver Organizing Committee for the 1976 Winter Olympics, Inc.	
IOC	International Olympic Committee	

INTRODUCTION

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The Denver Organizing Committee for the 1976 Winter Olympics, Inc. (DOC), and the city and county of Denver have requested a direct Federal appropriation of \$19.9 million to assist in financing the winter Olympic games to be held in Denver, Colorado, during February 1976. Legislation is pending before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (H.R. 14597) which would authorize Federal appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior to provide such financial support.

At the request of the Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, dated April 28, 1972 (see app. I), we reviewed the plans developed for staging the 1976 winter Olympic games in Colorado. In accordance with the request and subsequent discussions with the Chairman, we examined the following matters which are discussed in this report.

- --The planning for needed facilities, including proposed Federal and non-Federal funding and the nature, site locations, and potential for use of the proposed facilities after the games.
- --The proposed operating budget for staging the games, exclusive of the budget for land acquisition and construction of facilities.
- --The financing of planning activities conducted through May 1972, including the sources of the income received and the nature of the expenditures incurred.
- -- The accountability for funds provided for the games.
- --Other possible Federal assistance.
- --The environmental impact of the construction and use of facilities for the games.

Our report also includes comments on matters we believe should be considered by the Committee.

We made our review at the office of DOC in Denver and at headquarters and field offices of the Departments of the Interior, Defense, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation. We also reviewed records and interviewed officials of the State of Colorado and the city and county

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NATURE OF THE WINTER GAMES

of Denver.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) regulations state that the winter Olympic games may include biathlon, bobsledding, luge, skating, ice hockey, and skiing. In each sport the events are governed by the technical rules of the responsible international sports federation.

The biathlon is a paramilitary sport for men that combines tests of stamina at distance skiing while carrying a weapon with ability and steadiness to shoot accurately under the dual stresses of time and fatigue.

Bobsledding is a men's sport practiced on two- and four-man heavy metal, steerable sleds with two sets of runners. Luge is a contest for both men and women that uses lighter weight sleds, with single sets of runners, steered by the shifting of the contestants' weights

The skating events include figure and speed skating and ice hockey. Skiing includes events in cross-country, downhill, and slalom skiing, as well as ski jumping. A combination of cross-country skiing and 70-meter ski jumping is generally referred to as nordic skiing. The downhill and slalom events are referred to as alpine skiing.

DOC planned to hold contests in all these sports, except the four-man bobsled event which was subject to final negotiation with IOC.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

On May 12, 1970, IOC designated the city of Denver as the host for the XII winter Olympic games. The selection of Denver culminated several years of effort by individuals and groups, primarily the Colorado Olympic Commission, Inc. (COC, Inc.), and DOC.

COC, Inc , was incorporated on November 23, 1965, as a nonprofit corporation to study the feasibility of holding the winter Olympic games in Colorado COC, Inc., functioned as an agency of the State. After the selection of the city of Denver as the host for the 1976 winter games, COC, Inc., was dissolved in June 1971 because it had accomplished its purpose. At that time its assets and liabilities were transferred to DOC.

DOC was incorporated on April 6, 1967, as a nonprofit corporation to plan and secure the selection of the city of Denver as the site for the 1976 winter games. DOC has functioned as an agency of the city and county of Denver. On November 25, 1970, the certificate of incorporation of DOC was amended to provide for planning, staging, and conducting the 1976 winter games. The DOC board of directors consists of 27 members who, with the exception of the president, serve without compensation. As of June 19, 1972, DOC had a staff of 16 salaried employees

Effective July 1, 1971, the Colorado General Assembly created the Colorado Olympics Commission (COC) to provide a focal point for the State's involvement in the games. COC comprises 11 unpaid members appointed by the Governor; it has no paid staff

The mayor of Denver has designated an Olympic coordinator to administer the city's activities with respect to the games. The Olympic coordinator has no staff; however, he is able to draw on existing city personnel for his needs.

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FACILITIES PLANNING AND FUNDING

As of June 26, 1972, DOC estimated that about \$67.1 million would be required to construct and improve all facilities associated with the 1976 winter games, except for the facilities for alpine skiing which were to be privately developed. DOC classified the facilities under three categories, according to the degree of need for the facilities minimum essential (\$23.4 million), highly desirable (\$28.8 million), and desirable (\$14.9 million). (See app. II for a listing of planned facilities and improvements by degree of need.)

DOC planned to finance the facilities and improvements through existing Federal programs, city of Denver bond issues, contributions from private enterprise and foundations, incomes from television contracts, and a Federal appropriation of \$19.9 million. DOC had requested this appropriation primarily for minimum essential facilities for five of the sports events to be conducted in the games.

MINIMUM ESSENTIAL FACILITIES

DOC considered the following facilities to be critical to the conduct of the games and without which the games could not be held.

	Amount (000 omitted)	Proposed source of <u>funds</u>
New sports facilities	\$17,500	Direct Federal appropriation
Land acquisition and facility	2,400	Direct Federal appropriation
improvements in the city of Denver		
Improvements to Currigan Hall Convention Center in the city of Denver	1,264	Operating revenue from television
Athlete housing for events at	2,200	To be determined
Steamboat Springs, Colorado		
Total cost of minimum essential facilities	\$ <u>23,364</u>	
Total direct Federal appropriation request	\$ <u>19,900</u>	

Sports facilities

In its capital budget request for Federal financial assistance, DOC stated that the nature of the new sports facilities precluded the possibility of private financing because the revenue potential of the facilities when used for commercial purposes after the games was insufficient to attract investment capital. Break-even analyses prepared by consultants for DOC showed that, although each of the sports facilities had a revenue-producing potential after the games, the probability that revenues would be sufficient to cover more than cash operating expenses was remote.

DOC planned to use the \$17.5 million requested for the sports facilities as follows.

	Estimated construction
	costs
Speed-skating arena	\$ 6,800,000
Two-man bobsled-luge run	4,000,000
Special ski jumps	2,700,000
Nordic skiing facilities	800,000
Biathlon facilities	200,000
Temporary facilities	1,000,000
Reserve for cost increases	2,000,000
Total	\$ <u>17,500,000</u>

The estimated construction costs of the facilities were projected at 1971 prices, and the \$2 million reserve for cost increases was intended to provide for a 5.5-percent inflation increase per year. The estimated construction costs also included \$1.3 million for possible cost increases due to architectural and engineering (A&E) design changes and possible site changes.

The cost estimate for the bobsled-luge run was based on the actual construction cost, expressed in 1971 dollars, of a similar facility in Germany. The cost estimate for the speed-skating arena was based on very preliminary A&E studies prepared only to arrive at a capital budget. The cost estimates for the ski jumps, nordic skiing facilities,

and biathlon facilities were based on site observations of the DOC staff as to the amount of work needed to construct the facilities. None of the cost estimates were based on specific A&E designs or construction specifications.

At DOC's request an engineering consulting firm reviewed the cost estimates for the new sports facilities and reported on November 12, 1971, that it was favorably impressed with the apparently sound engineering approach that DOC was taking with regard to the design and cost estimating for the basic sports facilities.

The president of DOC told us that better cost estimates were not available because of the lack of funds for A&E design work. He stated that DOC should have begun A&E work in July 1972 to have stayed on schedule. DOC had programed about \$1.2 million for A&E and related work into its fiscal year 1973 capital budget of \$1.9 million. This \$1.9 million was included in the \$19.9 million request for Federal funding.

A description of each of the sports facilities follows. A map showing the relative locations of, and distances between, the proposed facilities and the city of Denver is in appendix III.

Speed-skating arena (\$6.8 million)

DOC proposed a 240,000-square-foot, column-free, enclosed arena with a recessed, 400-meter, oval ice-skating track. The track would be surrounded by an earthen berm containing mechanical equipment, locker rooms and related facilities for 12 teams, conference halls, dining areas, press and administrative facilities, and spectator seating for 8,625.

The proposed site for the arena is in a residential neighborhood adjacent to Denver South High School located on either Denver School Board-owned land or city-owned land. The architect's plans called for the arena to blend in with the surrounding residential neighborhood. A proposed alternative site for the arena is on privately owned land adjacent to Mile High Stadium.

The mayor of the city of Denver stated that the city intended to maintain and operate the speed-skating arena, as well as the bobsled-luge and special ski-jumping facilities, for the benefit of the public after the games if these facilities were located on land deeded to the city. The city's intention had not been formalized in a resolution by the city council but was in a letter dated January 11, 1972, from the mayor to DOC. The mayor stated that the city intended to incorporate these facilities into its recreation programs.

The administrative assistant to the mayor informed us that the city recognized that income from operating the bobsled-luge and ski-jumping facilities might not cover operating expenses but that the city's recreation programs were not intended to be self-sustaining. He stated that excess revenues from operating the covered speed-skating arena could be used to offset any losses experienced in bobsled-luge and ski-jumping activities.

The construction of an open-air arena, estimated to cost \$3.3 million, had been considered for the speed-skating events but was not deemed feasible by DOC because of Denver's climate. The combinations of temperature, wind, and solar heat would make retention of the required degree of ice hardness difficult in an open-air arena, even in winter months with refrigeration equipment. The DOC technical director and the administrative assistant to the mayor told us that the afteruse potential of an open-air arena was very limited because Denver's needs for open-air sports facilities were being met with existing facilities.

Bobsled-luge runs (\$4 million)

DOC proposed the construction of a combined two-man bobsled-luge run on Denver-owned land at Genesee Park approximately 20 miles west of Denver. As of July 7, 1972, the site for the run had not been decided and an alternative site of privately owned land on Doublehead Mountain approximately 25 miles southwest of Denver was also under consideration.

DOC proposed a 1,500-meter, refrigerated, concrete run recessed into the ground for functional and esthetic purposes.

The run would have a series of start positions for multipleuse and training purposes. Related facilities proposed for construction included buildings for refrigeration equipment, sled storage and maintenance, first aid, and spectator and sanitary facilities.

The DOC proposal for the combined bobsled-luge run is a compromise proposal which eliminates the four-man bobsled event. Although DOC's initial bid for the games proposed staging both four- and two-man bobsled events, DOC officials later concluded that the four-man event was not widely practiced and should be eliminated from the games. In May 1972 DOC formally requested IOC and the international bobsled and luge sports federations to approve elimination of the fourman bobsled event. Action on DOC's request was expected to be taken at an IOC meeting in Munich, Germany, in August 1972.

If IOC rejects DOC's request, DOC will be required to provide two runs--one for the bobsled events and one for the luge events DOC proposed two alternatives to provide facilities for the four-man bobsled event, if required.

One alternative would be to construct a combined 1,500-meter, four- and two-man bobsled run of natural ice higher up in the mountains and a 1,000-meter, refrigerated luge run at either Genesee Park or Doublehead Mountain. DOC estimated that this alternative would cost \$5,650,000--about \$1.6 million more than the estimated cost of the combined two-man bobsled-luge run. DOC had no plan of how the additional \$1.6 million would be raised. The bobsled run of natural ice would be a temporary facility and would have no potential use after the games. The luge run, however, would be a permanent facility with afteruse potential.

A second alternative would be to stage the bobsled events on an existing run at Lake Placid, New York, and to construct a 1,000-meter, refrigerated luge run at either Genesee Park or Doublehead Mountain. DOC estimated that the construction cost of the luge run would be about \$2.9 million--about \$1.1 million less than the construction cost of the combined two-man bobsled-luge-run. The DOC executive vice president told us that officials of the organization

which operates the Lake Placid run had offered to stage the two- and four-man bobsled events on their run at an estimated cost to DOC of \$185,000.

Special sk1 jumps (\$2.7 million)

DOC proposed the construction of three jumps, a 90-meter and a 70-meter jump for the actual Olympic competition and a combined 50- and 35-meter jump for training purposes. The proposed construction also included judges' towers, a ski lift, snow-making equipment, athlete-warming, administration, first-aid, and maintenance buildings; and such spectator facilities as stands, fencing, and sanitary facilities.

The actual site for the jumps had not been decided. As of July 7, 1972, DOC proposed to construct the jumps on privately owned land near Genesee Park or, as an alternative site, on privately owned land on Doublehead Mountain. Funds requested for the ski jumps included a \$400,000 reserve and covered estimated land acquisition costs at either of the proposed sites. Any land acquired for the ski jumps would be made a part of the mountain parks system of the city of Denver, and the jumps would be operated by the city after the games.

Nordic skiing facilities (\$800,000)

DOC proposed to hold the nordic events on privately owned land near Steamboat Springs, approximately 110 miles northwest of Denver. DOC had obtained options from the private owners for the use of the land to conduct the crosscountry races. The jumping events associated with nordic skiing would be held on an existing 70-meter jump on property owned by the town of Steamboat Springs.

The requested Federal funds were to be used for rehabilitating the existing 70-meter jump and for constructing about 50 miles of cross-country race trails, including clearing trees for the trails and constructing bridges. Federal funds were also to be used to construct buildings for administration, race timing, first aid, athlete warming, and ski waxing and spectator facilities.

No firm plans for use of the nordic skiing facilities after the games had been developed. DOC officials stated that they expected that the facilities would be used as formal training camps for national championships and Olympic tryouts. DOC officials anticipated that the facilities would be operated by a local sports club which has a long history of competitive winter sports activities and which operated the existing jump.

Biathlon facilities (\$200,000)

DOC proposed to hold the biathlon, in addition to the nordic events, at Steamboat Springs. Federal funds have been requested to construct approximately 15 miles of trails; a 700-foot by 1,000-foot rifle range; buildings for administration, race timing, first aid, athlete warming, and ski waxing; and a start-finish area. DOC proposed also to construct the facilities on privately owned land and obtained options for the use of the land.

Plans for afteruse of the biathlon facilities had not been developed. DOC officials held preliminary discussions with a land company owning the land on which the facilities were to be constructed but did not reach a written agreement on the future use of the facilities

Temporary facilities (\$1 million)

In addition to proposing the permanent facilities associated with the several sports events, DOC proposed to provide such temporary facilities as buildings for press, radio, and television work areas, small meeting rooms for Olympic officials, and athlete-warming houses where permanent buildings would not be provided Other temporary facilities proposed included viewing and refreshment stands, sanitary facilities, ticket booths, fencing, and parking areas

Land acquisition and facility improvements in the city of Denver

The request for direct Federal appropriations includes \$2.4 million for land acquisition and improvements to existing facilities in Denver, as follows:

Land acquisition for proposed
all-purpose arena \$1,500,000
Mile High Stadium improvements 500,000
Coliseum improvements 400,000

Total \$2,400,000

The city of Denver also proposed \$1,264,000 worth of improvements to its Currigan Hall Convention Center. These improvements would be financed from operating revenues from television.

Land acquisition for proposed all-purpose arena (\$1.5 million)

The city of Denver proposed to construct an all-purpose arena to be used as the primary site for ice hockey and skating events other than speed skating during the games. (See p. 19 for proposed arena construction funding.) The city requested Federal funds needed to acquire approximately 23 acres of land as the site for the arena which would be located adjacent to Mile High Stadium in Denver.

The funding request showed the land for the arena as a minimum essential item, although it classified the arena not as minimum essential but as highly desirable. The administrative assistant to the mayor told us that the land for the arena was considered a minimum essential item because, if the land were made available through Federal funds, the proposed city bond issue for financing construction of the arena was almost certain to be accepted by the voters.

We found that the \$1,500,000 requested for the land was overstated by \$100,000 because of an error when land prices were taken from the city's feasibility study for the arena. We brought this matter to the attention of city of Denver

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officials who agreed that the funds requested for land acquisition should be reduced to \$1,400,000.

Mile High Stadium improvements (\$500,000)

The city requested funds to winterize certain plumbing facilities in its Mile High Stadium so that it could be used for the opening and closing ceremonies of the games.

The city does not normally use Mile High Stadium during January and February but does use it for football games in December. The stadium's water system is activated before each event and is drained immediately after to avoid freezing. City engineers stated that, in their opinions, the city would be taking an excessive risk of a system freezeup if the stadium were used during the opening and closing ceremonies in February 1976, unless the water system were winterized. The engineers based their opinions on the mean minimum temperatures for January and February from 1962 through 1971, which were 21.6 and 24.4, respectively. We noted, however, that the mean minimum temperature for December for the same years was 23.6.

Because the mean minimum temperature for December, when the stadium has been used, was not significantly different from that for January and February, we asked city officials why the stadium's water system could not be activated before the opening and closing ceremonies and drained immediately after the ceremonies. City officials stated that the stadium would be occupied by workmen preparing for the opening and closing ceremonies and cleaning up afterward, as well as by athletes during rehearsals for the ceremonies. They also pointed out that the stadium parking lot would be used as a transportation staging area during the games.

City engineers informed us that the plumbing in the locker rooms in the stadium's south stands is winterized and could be used by the workmen and athletes at times other than the opening and closing ceremonies. The engineers also stated that, if the only events scheduled for the stadium were the opening and closing ceremonies, the plumbing situation could be handled in the same manner as for football games. They told us that engineering studies had not been

prepared to support the \$500,000 cost estimate for winterling the stadium plumbing.

Coliseum improvements (\$400,000)

The Denver Collseum was proposed for use as one of the sites for figure skating and ice hockey during the games. (See p. 19.) The city requested funds to improve the ice surface and to install a new lighting system.

The present ice-making capability of the coliseum is over 20 years old, and the concrete floor of the ice-base surface has shifted over the years. The city proposed to improve and enlarge the surface to the Olympic standard of 30 meters by 60 meters required for both ice hockey and figure skating.

City officials stated that the present lighting system in the coliseum does not meet the minimum foot-candle rating of 300 to 500 necessary to accommodate color television broadcasts of the skating and hockey events. The city proposes to install a new lighting system.

Currigan Hall improvements

DOC planned that Currigan Hall would serve as the press center for the games and would be the originating point for worldwide coverage. City officials stated that improvements estimated to cost \$1,264,000 were needed to accommodate approximately 3,500 press and electronic media representatives. These improvements will include temporary partitions for the press center and such permanent improvements as plumbing facilities for film-processing laboratories, honeycomb grid ceilings, and additional power lines.

These improvements are planned to be financed with revenues from the television contracts.

Athlete housing for events at Steamboat Springs

DOC proposed to house athletes competing in the nordic and biathlon events and Olympic officials in facilities of U.S. International University, a privately owned educational

institution at Steamboat Springs. DOC estimated that 508 persons would need housing, but existing university facilities contain housing for only about 225 persons. DOC estimated it would cost \$2.2 million to construct the additional facilities needed.

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As of July 7, 1972, plans for the housing had not been finalized. DOC had received a letter dated January 17, 1972, from the university, which said it would provide housing for over 500 persons; however, DOC officials had not been informed of how the university planned to arrange financing the needed facilities. The DOC president advised us that, if the university were unable to provide the additional housing, DOC would house the athletes and officials in commercial facilities.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE FACILITIES

The following facilities are regarded as not absolutely essential to staging the games, but their availability is expected to greatly enhance the conduct of the games. DOC refers to these as catalyzed improvements since they were planned by the city of Denver before the Olympic effort and since the Olympics should speed up their completion.

	Amount (000 omitted)	Proposed source of <u>funds</u>
All-purpose arena city of Denver	\$10,000	City bond issue
Press housing in Denver urban re- newal areas	18,856	Department of Housing and Urban Develop- ment programs
Total highly de- sirable facil- ities	\$ <u>28,856</u>	0

All-purpose arena

The city of Denver proposed to construct an all-purpose arena with accommodations for a minimum of 18,000 spectators. Construction of the arena was proposed to be funded through a city bond issue to be voted on in September 1972. Land acquisition for the arena was proposed to be funded through the direct Federal appropriation. (See p. 15.) The city proposed to use the arena for sports, cultural, and civic events following the Olympics.

If the all-purpose arena is built, it will serve as the primary facility for ice hockey and figure-skating events and the Denver Coliseum (which has a seating capacity of 8,000) will serve as the secondary site. Without the all-purpose arena, the Denver University Arena (which has a seating capacity of 5,000) will serve as the secondary site and the coliseum will serve as the primary site.

DOC and city officials told us that construction of the all-purpose arena would be desirable to increase seating capacity and, thereby, potential income from the games and

to provide a second facility with an Olympic-size ice surface because the Denver University Arena ice surface cannot be enlarged.

DOC also informed us that, at an IOC meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, in May 1972, the International Skating Union-the sports federation governing the Olympic skating events--requested that Denver provide a new arena for the skating events.

Press housing

DOC initially planned to house members of the press covering the Olympic games in housing units to be built as part of an urban renewal project in Denver. This project was to be financed with HUD assistance and was estimated to cost \$29.6 million, excluding the cost of the housing units. The housing units would be constructed with private capital. The city of Denver plan for the urban renewal project was not approved by HUD, and in June 1972 the city submitted a revised plan which changed the boundaries of the project to eliminate the most expensive land subject to acquisition. The revised project was estimated to cost \$18.9 million, primarily for land acquisition, relocation, demolition, and site-clearing costs.

A HUD Denver regional official informed us that the revised city plan had received a favorable recommendation by the regional office staff but was subject to final approval by HUD headquarters. As of July 1972 the revised project plan had not received final approval.

DESIRABLE FACILITIES

DOC believes the following facilities would be "nice to have" but are not essential for the games.

	Amount (000 omitted)	Proposed source of <u>funds</u>
Improvements to Mile High Stadium	\$ 7,500	City appropriation and bond issue
University of Denver facilities Health center	0. /00	
Student union	2,400 <u>5,000</u>	To be determined To be determined
Total desirable facilities	\$ <u>14,900</u>	

Improvements to Mile High Stadium

The city proposed to increase the seating capacity from 53,000 to 59,000, to replace some existing seats, and to improve the lighting at the stadium in time for the 1976 games. Proposed funding would be through a city appropriation and bond issue.

University of Denver facilities

The University of Denver proposed to construct a health center and a student union which could be used in conjunction with the housing of Olympic athletes competing in events in or near Denver. Firm funding arrangements for these facilities had not been developed, but DOC officials informed us that the facilities could possibly be funded through either private sources or existing Federal Government programs. University of Denver officials, however, doubted that funding from those sources could be arranged.

In July 1972, the chancellor of the university advised DOC that the university expected that the costs of housing the athletes could be substantial and that the university could not afford to absorb such costs. He stated that the university intended to cooperate in providing athlete housing during the games but that the use of university facilities was contingent upon the negotiation of an agreement between DOC and the university's board of trustees, which would guarantee reimbursement to the university of all costs of housing the athletes. DOC was in the process of developing an estimate of athlete housing needs and costs before opening new negotiations with the university.

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

DOC had prepared an operating budget, dated March 1972, for the period starting with planning and construction activities in fiscal year 1973 through completion of the games in 1976. The budget estimated expenses totaling \$15 million and operating income ranging from \$10.3 million to \$15.8 million, depending on the amounts received from admissions and television revenues. A summary of the budget follows.

Operating Budget Summary

				r	-
	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u> 1976</u>	<u>Total</u>
	·	(000 Omıt	ted)——	
Operating expenses Personnel Other Contingency	\$491 405 —	\$ 854 418		\$ 2,903 6,141 1,013	
Total	\$ <u>896</u>	\$ <u>1,272</u>	\$ <u>2,775</u>	\$10,057	\$ <u>15,000</u>
Operating incomelow estimate Admissions Licensing and franchising lelevision (note a) Total	\$ -	\$ _ 360 \$ <u>360</u>	630	\$ 2,500 810 5,000 \$ <u>8,310</u>	1,800 5,000
Income deficiency to be covered by proposed appropriation by Colorado	-\$ <u>89</u> 6	\$ <u>-912</u>	-\$ <u>1,145</u>	\$ <u>-1,747</u>	\$ <u>-4,700</u>
Operating incomehigh estimate Admissions Licensing and franchising Television (note a)	\$ - - -	\$ - 360 	\$1,500 630 ———	\$ 4,000 810 8,500	\$ 5,500 1,800 8,500
Total	-	\$ <u>360</u>	\$ <u>2,130</u>	\$ <u>13,310</u>	\$ <u>15,800</u>
Income deficiency to be covered by State appropriation	-\$ <u>896</u>	\$ <u>-912</u>	\$645	-	\$-2,453
Surplus available for disposition		P		\$ <u>3,253</u>	\$ <u>3,253</u>

^aTelevision revenues were also proposed to be used to finance improvements to Denver's Currigan Hall (See p 17) However, other financial arrangements for these improvements may be needed

OPERATING EXPENSES

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DOC projections of costs to be incurred for planning and staging the games were based on the cost experiences at recent games, primarily those held at Grenoble, France, in 1968 and at Sapporo, Japan, in 1972. DOC did not adjust these costs for possible price inflation but did include a \$1,013,000 contingency item in its total estimate of operating expenses.

The cost estimates were contingent upon the availability of extensive volunteer support by individuals, businesses, other private or public organizations, and the military services to provide services, materials, and equipment. (See ch. 6 for a discussion of proposed assistance by the Department of Defense.) DOC's president told us that DOC did not plan to obtain firm commitments on volunteer services and equipment until the Munich games are completed in September 1972. A DOC official further informed us that about 350 individuals had volunteered their services to DOC for the games.

OPERATING INCOME

Our analysis of the several types of incomes which DOC estimated it will receive follows.

<u>Admissions</u>

The basic factors involved in estimating admissions revenues were the experience at Sapporo, the location of events and their expected spectator interest, the planned spectator capacity of the facilities where the events are to be held, and the expected price of tickets.

Our review indicated that DOC's estimates of admissions revenues need further refinement because they did not reflect the cost of marketing tickets and certain revenues to be received from concession fees. We also noted that the impact of television upon ticket prices and sales had been considered only to a limited degree. DOC agreed that television would have an impact. DOC also stated that, until all facility sites were selected and a ticket marketing contract signed, it would be impossible to know what firm ticket revenues might be developed and what commission DOC would have to absorb for marketing the tickets.

Licensing and franchising

DOC estimated that it would receive \$1.8 million in revenues from licensing and franchising. These revenues were to be derived from the commercial use of the emblems designed for the 1976 winter Olympics on commemoratives, advertisements, and giveaways and from other uses by local and regional small businesses. The State had passed a law which gave COC and DOC exclusive use of the emblems and which allowed COC and DOC to license their use.

The projection of \$1.8 million in revenues was based on previous licensing and franchising experience of the United States Olympic Committee. Factors considered in estimating the revenues included the licensing fees which DOC believed it could charge and the number of contracts it believed it could negotiate. No such contracts had been signed at the time of our review. We were told by a DOC official that franchising activities would be maximized without cheapening the emblems by flooding the market with them.

<u>Television</u>

DOC estimated that its net share of revenues from granting the rights for television coverage would range from \$5 million to \$8.5 million. No hard negotiations had been held with the national television networks because DOC had agreed with IOC to delay signing television contracts until after the 1972 Munich games.

DOC had preliminary discussions with two networks, and a DOC official told us that, on the basis of such discussions, it would be reasonable to expect a \$10 million television rights contract. Under current IOC regulations for distributing television revenues from Olympic events, a \$10 million contract would provide DOC with a share of about \$5.7 million. For the 1972 winter games in Sapporo, the rights were sold for \$8.5 million, from which the Sapporo Organizing Committee paid television production costs resulting in net proceeds of about \$4.2 million.

APPROPRIATIONS FROM STATE OF COLORADO

DOC estimated that it would need appropriations of about \$4.7 million from Colorado. This amount represents the subsidy needed to bring the low estimate of revenues up to the \$15 million needed for operating expenses. DOC anticipated that, in the event that the high estimates of revenues were realized, State appropriations totaling \$2.5 million would be needed to cover operating deficits in fiscal years 1973 through 1975. A surplus of about \$3.3 million was estimated for 1976.

In the 1972 legislative session, the Colorado State Senate approved such an appropriation when it amended a fiscal year 1973 appropriations bill to provide \$5 million to COC through fiscal year 1976. This amendment was stricken from the bill by a senate-house conference committee. A State official told us that the committee regarded the amendment as inappropriate because it would have bound future legislatures. For fiscal year 1973, the State legislature appropriated to COC \$783,500 for Olympic planning, \$25,000 for COC administrative costs, and \$75,000 for environmental studies by the Colorado Land Use Commission.

An organization called Citizens for Colorado's Future obtained sufficient signatures on a petition to place the issue of State funding of the 1976 winter Olympic games before the Colorado voters in a referendum in November 1972. The referendum calls for amending the Colorado State constitution to prohibit State funding of the 1976 games. A favorable vote would preclude future financial support of the games by the State legislature.

The DOC president told us that loss of State funding would be a hardship but would not make it impossible to stage the games. He said loss of State funding could possibly be offset by an expanded drive for contributions.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF DENVER

The city of Denver planned expenditures of about \$653,000, in addition to DOC's projected operating expenses, during the period 1973-76 for increased staff for planning, engineering, contracting, and inspection needs that would

be brought on by channeling anticipated Federal funds for the games through the city. These expenditures would be paid from city appropriations.

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FINANCING OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CONDUCTED THROUGH MAY 1972

As of May 31, 1972, the accounts of DOC showed a cumulative income of about \$1.6 million and expenditures of about \$1.5 million. A summary of DOC's income and expenditures before and after Denver's selection in May 1970 as the site for the 1976 games follows.

Denver Organizing Committee Income and Expenditures From Inception to May 31, 1972 (note a)

	Preselection		Postselection		Total	
	Amount		Amount		Amount	
	(000 omitted)	Percent	(000 omitted)	Percent	(000 omitted)	Percent
Income						
State of Colorado appropriations	\$355	45 4	\$753	88 4	\$1,108	67 8
Contributions	256	32 7	. 9	1 1	265	16 2
City of Denver appropriations	1.50	19 2	75	8 8	225	13 8
Sales of promotional items	19	2 4	6	7	25	1 5
- Other (including interest)	2	3	9	1 0	11	
Total income (note b)	\$ <u>782</u>	100 0	\$ <u>852</u>	100 0	\$ <u>1,634</u>	100 0
Expenditures						
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 87	11 6	\$332	43 2	\$ 419	27 6
Promotion materials and film	172	22 9	' 38	5 0	210	13 8
Travel in connection with			•		2.40	25 0
technical reports and studies	92	12 2	101	13 1	193	12 7
Presentation materials	153	20 4	16	2 0	169	11 1
Travel to sports events and			7"			
congresses	139	18 5	9	12	148	97
Studies and site selection	24	32	88	11 5	112	7 4
Other administrative expenses						
(note c)	27	36	44	5 7	71 ~	47
Rent	14	19	35	4 6	49	32
Preliminary feasibility study	9	12	28	36	37	3 2 2 4
Telephone and telegraph	12	16	′ ii	14	23	1 5
Professional services	6	8 ~	16 ~	2 0 1 3	22	1 4
Travel and entertainment	10	13	10	13	20	ī 3
Travel for public relations						
purposes	_	-	13	17	13	9
Support facilities planning	-	-	5	7	5	3
Purchase of display furniture and						
equipment	6	8	_23	3 0		20
Total expenditures	\$ <u>751</u>	100 0	\$ <u>769</u>	100 0	\$ <u>1,520</u>	100 0

^aIncludes the income and expenditures of COC, Inc , which were transferred to DOC on June 30 1971

About two-thirds of DOC's income was obtained from State appropriations to COC, Inc., and to COC, which were made available to DOC. These funds have been available only for Olympic planning and site selection. DOC has had no funds available for A&E design work or for site acquisition. In addition, for fiscal year 1972 COC received a State appropriation of \$15,000, of which about \$1,000 had been expended and about \$10,000 had been encumbered for

^bExcludes donated in-kind services the value of which was estimated by DOC to be approximately \$300,000

 $^{^{\}mathrm{C}}$ Includes legal services, insurance care and transportation of exhibits office supplies, finance and audit postage and delivery, and other expenses

COC's expenses at the winter Olympic games in Sapporo. The city of Denver also had appropriated \$250,000 for its fiscal year 1972 Olympic planning, of which about \$5,000 had been expended.

Expenditures before Denver's selection as the site for the 1976 games were primarily for expenses involved in developing a plan for the games and in selling the plan to IOC and the sports federations concerned with the events in the Olympic games. Expenditures since Denver's selection have been primarily for salaries of DOC's staff--which was increased from four to 16--and for technical studies and site selection.

The 16 DOC employees receive salary and employee benefits of about \$242,000 annually. As of June 1972 the staff consisted of:

	Annual salary
President	\$38,000
Director of sports technical division	28,400
Director of public affairs	25 , 000
Director of administration	21,000
Marketing consultant	19,000
Manager of support facilities	18,200
Manager of accommodations	17,200
Landscape architectplanner	17,000
Secretarial and clerical (seven	
employees)	4,800 to 10,500
Part time	2,400

We reviewed transactions representing about 20 percent of DOC's total expenditures through May 31, 1972, and found they had been incurred for what appeared to be reasonable and proper expenses.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FUNDS PROVIDED FOR THE GAMES

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FUNDS RECEIVED THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 1972

Because most of the funds appropriated by the State of Colorado and the city of Denver for the planning of the games were made available to DOC, both the State and the city held DOC accountable for its income and expenses, including the proper expenditure of public funds.

DOC's certificate of incorporation states that DOC is accountable to the city of Denver for all receipts and disbursements, whether of public or private funds, received or expended during its existence. The contract governing the relationship between DOC and COC provides that COC grant State funds to DOC and that DOC render a financial accounting of all receipts and disbursements in such detail as COC may request. The contract provides also that the State may review and approve DOC budgets before they are adopted if State money is to be used.

A firm of certified public accountants audited the annual financial statements of DOC and COC, Inc., for the period June 1966 through June 1971 and rendered favorable opinions on the fairness of these statements. The accounts of DOC for fiscal year 1972 will be covered by a similar audit.

The State and the city have received and reviewed the audited statements of DOC. Also the State and the city participate in the decisions of DOC because the Governor of Colorado, the mayor of Denver, two members of the Colorado legislature, and two Denver city councilmen serve on the DOC board of directors. The only Federal representative on the DOC board is the regional forester of the U.S. Forest Service.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PROPOSED FEDERAL FUNDING

The legislation pending before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (H.R 14597) would authorize

the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to cities or counties in Colorado. Department of the Interior officials advised us that the grants would be administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

A Bureau official informed us that the mechanism for administering the grants, if approved by the Congress, had not been decided upon but possibly would be modeled after that used for granting funds to the States from the Land and Water Conservation Fund The Bureau would require the cities and counties receiving the grant funds to account for their proper use, but it would not preclude them from making the funds available to other organizations involved in planning and staging the games. The Bureau official informed us also that provision would be made for access to, and audit of, records of grant recipients by the Department of the Interior and the Comptroller General of the United States.

With respect to Federal funds that would be granted to the city of Denver, the city's Olympic coordinator told us that the city auditor would have audit responsibility over use of these funds and, to the extent they are made available to DOC, over DOC's accounting records.

We noted that House bill 14597 does not provide authority for the Secretary of the Interior and the Comptroller General to examine and audit the records of grant recipients. We believe that the proposed legislation should be amended to include such authority.

OTHER POSSIBLE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Several Federal departments and agencies may incur costs related to the staging of the 1976 games, in addition to the anticipated direct Federal funding and the HUD assistance outlined in chapter 2.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Department of the Interior stated that its Bureau of Outdoor Recreation would need funds to administer the act which would provide direct Federal assistance for the 1976 games but that the amount had not been determined.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOC expected that the 1976 winter games at Denver would receive the use of military personnel and equipment, as did the 1960 winter Olympic games at Squaw Valley, California. Public Law 85-365 authorized the armed services to support the Squaw Valley games by permitting military personnel to (1) prepare courses, fields, and rinks, (2) maintain avalanche control, and (3) provide communications. Further, the services were authorized to lend equipment and to provide other appropriate support. Legislation similar to Public Law 85-365 would be required for the Department of Defense to support the 1976 winter games.

Although DOC had not yet requested the services of military personnel from the Department of Defense, the latter had included the 1976 winter Olympic games in its planning of military personnel needs for the American Revolution Bicentennial celebration. DOC estimated that about 155,000 man-days of military personnel would be needed during the games. At a standard cost of \$30 a day, which the Department of Defense estimates would apply to military personnel in fiscal year 1976, the value of these services at the games would be about \$4.6 million. No estimates were available for equipment costs.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, will be involved in the 1976 games because the alpine events will be staged on privately developed slopes on Forest Service land. The private development will be carried out by an enterpreneur under a special-use permit issued by the Forest Service

In a letter dated June 21, 1972, the Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, advised us that, in connection with issuing and administering this permit, the Forest Service would incur costs totaling about \$144,000 during fiscal years 1973 through 1975. Additional costs may also be incurred in 1975 and 1976 the amounts of which were not determinable. Also, the amount of income to be received by the Forest Service from the special-use permit was not determinable.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

The Chief Engineer, Colorado State Highway Department, informed us that a new bridge, estimated to cost about \$100,000, might be needed across the Eagle River between Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 6 in Eagle County to provide better access to the alpine ski site. He said that this bridge, if made part of the State highway system, would be eligible for about \$56,000 in Federal funding. We were advised by the Chief Engineer, Colorado Division of the Federal Highway Administration, that the games would not result in increased Federal funding demands and that Colorado would merely restructure its highway construction priorities.

Federal Aviation Administration

The Rocky Mountain Region Planning Officer of the Federal Aviation Administration told us that the Administration had not identified any funding demands because of the Olympics. He said, however, that the games might cause an adjustment of priorities within the region, although improvements to the Steamboat Springs and Vail airports were already considered high-priority needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

In June 1972 the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation completed the draft of an environmental impact statement to cover the overall and cumulative impact of staging the 1976 Olympic games in Colorado. The Bureau pointed out that the statement was general and discussed the environmental impact of the general activities of the five sites where sports facilities were proposed to be constructed and the impact of the total Olympic effort. The Bureau stated that, before the Secretary of the Interior would advance moneys for each facility complex, a detailed environmental statement would be completed for that particular site and facility.

In its draft the Bureau concluded that the overall emvironmental effect of the proposed Federal assistance in the Olympic effort might be much broader in scope and importance than the relatively small acreage on which the events would be held. Thus, although the Olympics are intended to be neither an environmental-improving nor an environmental-degrading project, the Bureau found that they might have far-ranging environmental significance. The Bureau stated that the environmental impacts of the games fell into several broad categories.

- 1. Specific site alterations associated with facility development likely will be adverse because of the disturbance to landscape and plant and animal life.
- Economic growth and development may be slightly accelerated, as evidenced by increasing numbers of people and jobs and increasing commitment of land and water resources.
- 3. Developments indirectly related to the Olympics will cause increased loads on existing land-use systems. However, the games could have a positive environmental effect in that they could give impetus to the implementation of recently enacted State legislation providing for sound land-use guidance through the Colorado Land Use Commission.

They may also lead to the enactment of further legislation giving additional authority to the Commission.

4. Numerous Denver facilities, including housing and sports complexes, are being planned which might be used for the Olympics. Environmental impacts of these urban projects may be relatively small, but indirect sociological impacts may be significant, such as the relocation of large numbers of people, long-range changes in urban land-use patterns, and use of scarce city resources for certain projects in lieu of others.

In its \$19.9 million request for Federal funds, DOC included \$300,000 for the accumulation of data which would be needed by the Bureau when it makes its more detailed environmental impact studies.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

BY THE COMMITTEE

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING PLANS AND DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES

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The cost estimates for the construction of the proposed facilities included in DOC's request for direct Federal funding are not firm. DOC has referred to some of the estimates as preliminary and to others as conceptual. DOC stated that better cost estimates were not available because of the lack of funds for A&E design work. (See p. 10 for further discussions of this matter.)

The Department's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has prepared a draft of an environmental impact statement which is general and is to be supplemented by a more detailed statement for each proposed site and facility before Federal funds are advanced. Until more detailed studies have been made, the specific environmental aspects of the facilities proposed for Federal funding will not be known. (See p. 33 for further discussion.)

The Committee may wish to make an initial authorization limited to an amount for financing (1) the A&E services necessary to reasonably determine the estimated costs of the proposed facilities and (2) the studies needed to determine more specifically the environmental impact of these facilities.

DECISION ON STAGING THE FOUR-MAN BOBSLED EVENT

DOC's request for Federal funds included \$4 million for the construction of a combined two-man bobsled-luge run. DOC believed that the customary four-man bobsled event should be eliminated from the games and had formally requested IOC to approve the elimination of the four-man bobsled event.

If IOC rejects DOC's proposal, additional facilities would have to be provided by DOC to accommodate the four-man bobsled event. The two alternatives proposed by DOC to provide such facilities would result in costs of \$2.9 million or \$5.6 million, respectively, or about \$1.1 million less or \$1.6 million more than the \$4 million construction cost estimate.

The specific funding needs for the bobsled-luge facilities will not be known until IOC has made its decision, which is expected at its August 1972 meeting in Munich (See pp. 12 and 13 for a further discussion of this matter.)

We are bringing this matter to the attention of the Committee because of the significance of the dollar amounts involved in the proposed alternatives for providing the bobsled and luge facilities and because of the uncertainty in the planning of these events.

JUSTIFICATION OF ALL-PURPOSE ARENA LAND ACQUISITION

The request for direct Federal funding included \$1,500,000 for the acquisition of land by the city of Denver to be used as the site of an all-purpose arena for staging the ice hockey and skating events. The request classifies the land acquisition as minimum essential but classifies the arena as highly desirable. Under current plans, construction of the arena is contingent upon authorization of a bond issue by Denver voters. A city official stated that the land for the arena was classified as minimum essential because, if the land were made available through Federal funds, the proposed city bond issue for financing construction of the arena was almost certain to be accepted by the voters. (See pp. 15 and 16 for a further discussion of this matter.)

Because the arena is not considered minimum essential for staging the Olympic games, the Committee may wish to require additional justification for the funding of the land acquisition.

JUSTIFICATION OF WINTERIZED PLUMBING FOR DENVER MILE HIGH STADIUM

The request for direct Federal funding included \$500,000 for winterizing the plumbing system at Denver's Mile High Stadium, the proposed site of the opening and closing ceremonies in February 1976. City officials stated that the stadium would also be used as a transportation staging area during the games and by workmen preparing for the games and cleaning up afterward, as well as by athletes rehearsing for the opening and closing ceremonies

Our review raised questions as to the need for this improvement because city engineers stated that (1) the plumbing system could be activated before the ceremonies and drained immediately after in the same manner as in prior years for football games held in the stadium during December and (2) winterized plumbing facilities in the locker rooms in the stadium's south stands could be used by the workmen and athletes at other times (See pp 16 and 17 for a further discussion of this matter.)

Therefore the Committee may wish to require additional justification from the city of Denver before authorizing this item.

AUDIT AUTHORITY

The proposed legislation which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make grants for the 1976 winter Olympic games to cities or counties in Colorado (H R 14597) does not provide authority for the Secretary of the Interior and the Comptroller General to examine and audit the records of grant recipients. (See pp 29 and 30 for a further discussion of this matter.)

We recommend that the Committee amend the proposed legislation to provide such authority by adding the following language.

"Each recipient of assistance under this Act shall keep such records as the Secretary (of the Interior) shall prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and the disposition by such recipient of the proceeds of such assistance, the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such assistance is given or used, and the amount and nature of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

"The Secretary (of the Interior) and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipient that are pertinent to assistance received under this Act."

NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS

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COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS 8 9 House of Representatives WASHINGTON DC 20515

April 28, 1972

Mr Elmer B Staats Comptroller General of the United States Washington, D C 20548

Dear Mr Staats

This committee has before it legislation (H R 14597), a copy of which is enclosed, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the planning, design, and construction of outdoor recreational facilities in connection with the 1976 Winter Olympic Games

In its consideration of this legislation the committee needs an independent evaluation of the plans of the Denver Olympic Committee for holding the 1976 Winter Olympic Games in the State of Colorado — As I indicated in our telephone conversation I would appreciate very much your assigning an investigator to this task

The committee needs to know the adequacy of the plans which the Olympic Committee has developed, the accuracy of the estimated costs for planning and constructing the necessary facilities, the ability of the Olympic Committee to raise funds locally to help finance the Games, the use which is to be made of the facilities after the Games are over, and, as a result of this evaluation, your recommendation or judgment as to what would be appropriate in the way of financial assistance from the Federal Government

In view of the fact there is some urgency attached to this legislation, please let me know whether you can comply with this request and an estimate as to when the results of the investigation might be available to the committee

wayne n adpinall

Chairman

Enclosure

APPENDIX II

1976 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

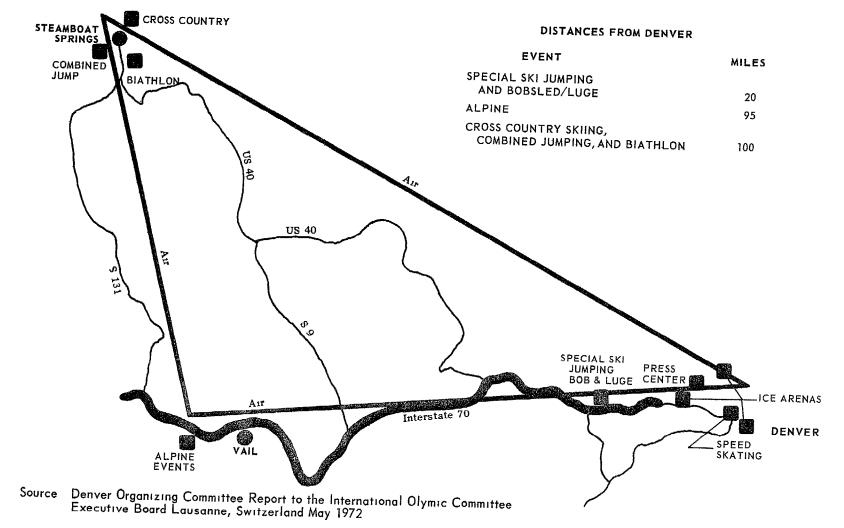
PLANNED FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Degree of need	Amount	<u>Total</u>	Proposed source of funds
Minimum essential New sports facilities Speed-skating arena Bobsled-luge run Ski jumps Nordic skiing facilities Biathlon facilities Temporary facilities Reserve for cost increases	\$6,800,000 4,000,000 2,700,000 800,000 200,000 1,000,000 2,000,000	\$17,500,000	Direct Federal appropriations
Land acquisition and facility improvements in the city of Denver Land for proposed all- purpose arena Mile High Stadium improve- ments Coliseum improvements	1,500,000 500,000 400,000	2,400,000	Direct Federal appropriations
Currigan Hall Convention Center improvements in the city of Denver Athlete housing for events at Steamboat Springs		1,264,000	Operating revenue from tele- vision To be determined
Highly desirable All-purpose arena Press housing in Denver urban renewal areas		23,364,000 10,000,000 18,856,000 ^a 28,856,000	Denver bond issue Department of Housing and Urban Development
Desirable Improvements to Mile High Stadium		7,500,000	Denver appropriation and bond issue
University of Denver Facilities Health center Student union	2,400,000 5,000,000	7,400,000 14,900,000	To be determined To be determined
Total		\$ <u>67,120,000</u>	

 $^{^{\}rm a}$ Funded under existing Department of Housing and Urban Development programs, not part of the proposed direct Federal appropriation for Olympic games

APPENDIX III

1976 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES SPORT FACILITY MAP



SPORTS FACILITIES

TOWNS