

Move Colorado News

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Move Colorado is a private industry organization that provides information, sponsors education programs, and supports the efforts of Colorado community, business, and political leaders to solve transportation finance issues.

Contact us:
www.movecolorado.org

New Challenges

To move forward, it is important to recognize opportunity, seize the moment, and reach out to others. Colorado faces major challenges in addressing its transportation funding gap, but the moment is at hand to begin the process – to reach out and rededicate ourselves to the task:

- Colorado voters continue to support major transportation financing proposals – TREX, FasTracks, Proposition 1A, and Referendum C
- The VoteYes on C&D Campaign Built a Strong Statewide Support Base
- Post Referenda C&D voter surveys show strong support for transportation – highways, roadways, and bridges
- The Governor, the Legislature, and Local Government Officials recognize the need to take action

A New Organization

The creation of *Move Colorado* recognizes that new challenges require new commitments, focused leadership, and new ways to get the job done for Colorado’s economic future and quality of life.

The partnership created by the C&D Campaign Coalition provides a dynamic building block for future relationships and new effort. *Move Colorado* will work to maintain this partnership of health, education, and transportation. We are meeting with stakeholders on transportation issues, particularly our legislative leaders on the problem and need for "Action."



Steve Holt, President
Move Colorado

We have a program underway to package transportation funding solutions in a strategic marketing and polling program to implement major ballot initiatives long term. Our *Move Colorado Task Force* will address:

- Fiscal Restructuring
- Revenue Alternatives
- Tolling
- Leveraging Resources

Visit our Website and take a look at the transportation funding issue in depth. Contact us with questions.

Join us in this important partnership to keep Colorado moving – *Move Colorado*.

Steve Holt, President

Legislature Focuses on Post Referendum C Funding

Over the past four years, CDOT's construction budget has been reduced by over 40%, totaling about \$1.2 billion in projects that were planned for but could not be completed. The bonding measure in Referendum D would have allowed for an accelerated build-out.

Under the current conditions, funding generated with a continuing economic recovery would generate \$1 billion through 2011 because of the transportation base provided by SB1 and HB1310. Additional funding will be required and Governor Owens opened the debate by proposing an additional \$80 million in FY 06.

An analysis of the provisions and statutory references of Referendum C clearly shows that additional funds were anticipated in the law.

Polling results show voters recognized Referendum C included funding for transportation. According to the CCA sponsored poll by Vitale & Associates, 64% of voters believe roads, bridges, and other strategic transportation projects were a part of the spending mix specified in Referendum C. The poll shows voters continue to have a strong degree of support for transportation funding.

Transportation Advocates

A Transportation Advocates group has been organized this legislative session to coordinate support for transportation funding following the passage of Referendum C. A resolution prepared by Capitol Solutions is being circulated for adoption by groups supporting funding under the measure. It is available from Sandra Solin, Capitol Solutions (303) 837-1714.

SB1 Dollar Drain - A Problem

The Legislature is now hearing about the real value of SB1 for transportation. Transportation Advocates and CDOT are telling legislators how allocations to other programs reduce the funds available to transportation. Decisions to fund other programs drain the funds that would ultimately be available for transportation through SB1.

According to Carla Perez, *Move Colorado*, "SB1 and HB1310 are part of the base for funding transportation in Colorado - they need to be preserved. It is critical to oppose proposals that modify existing statutes that negatively impact SB1."

Federal Funding Issues

The "Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU) will provide guaranteed funding for the federal highway, transit and safety programs. The reauthorization bill approves \$2.45 billion in guaranteed funding for Colorado over the 6-year life of the bill. That is a 46 percent increase in guaranteed funding for Colorado as compared to the previous multi-year transportation-funding bill.

The new federal transportation funding legislation is earmarked for specific projects, which requires shifting of state/local matching funds to secure those projects. This practice puts other projects at risk of being unfunded and reduces the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) ability to maintain the system – the problem grows as funds decrease.

Costs will continue to be shifted to local agencies, and major projects will be deferred despite Colorado's continued growth.

Fiscal Structure Needs Fix

In the next several years, federal officials will face a decline in gas tax revenues available through the Trust Fund to complete projects authorized under SAFETEA-LU.

Highway usage will continue to increase, while our revenues from user paid gasoline taxes will decline.

While technology improvements continue to yield higher efficiencies in our travel, fuel efficient travel reduces our ability to finance and maintain our transportation system, particularly when costs are increasing.

Rising costs reduce dollar value. The transportation fiscal structure fails to keep pace with growth and inflation

SAFETEA-LU Spends Down the Highway Account Balance

