

POLICY PRINCIPLES 2022



Formed in 1996, Move Colorado has been focused on informing and educating policy leaders and the public regarding Colorado's transportation policy and funding. We are here to help serve you as you navigate the challenging issues around transportation policy and funding in your very important role.

WHO WE ARE

For more than 25 years **Move Colorado** has been at the forefront of the transportation funding policy debate – seeking to inform and educate policy leaders, interested parties, and fellow Coloradans regarding how best to increase and allocate funding resources to support our vast and diverse transportation system.

Move Colorado's membership consists of committed transportation advocates from across the state. We are focused on an inclusive and robust conversation and debate about how to ensure all Coloradans have access to a safe multi-modal system that meets their transportation access needs for today and the future.



NEAR-TERM MISSION

Advance financial solutions for a Colorado multi-modal transportation system that promotes economic viability and an improved quality of life.



LONG-TERM VISION

To enhance the quality of life for citizens of Colorado through an efficient, connected and sustainable multi-modal transportation system.

WHAT WE BELIEVE



COLORADO'S STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MUST BE ADEQUATELY FUNDED

Move Colorado believes transportation plays an important role in ensuring a robust and healthy economy. Economic success requires a safe, efficient, and well-functioning transportation system that allows for the movement of goods, people, and services regardless of where people choose to live, work, or play.

How is transportation currently funded? Colorado's transportation system is funded through a variety of sources, depending on the recipient of the funding. For example, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) is funded through sales taxes. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is primarily funded through federal formula funds and the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF), which includes vehicle registration fees and gas taxes. Local governments are typically funded by a combination of both HUTF and various sales or use taxes. HUTF funding is shared between state and local governments through a formula. Most recently, 35%-40% of dollars were distributed directly to counties and municipalities to fund projects

What is the issue? The HUTF is a declining revenue source as fuel efficiency standards increase and alternative transportation options become more accessible and desirable, combined with the stagnant gas tax that was last increased by the state in 1991 and by the federal government in 1993. Signed by Governor Polis in 2021, Senate Bill 260 increased transportation funding through a series of user fees. While these increased resources are much needed and certainly of benefit, the funding expenditures expand beyond typical transportation projects and must be supplemented to maintain the condition and integrity of the existing transportation system.

To ensure Colorado's vast transportation system meets the needs of both individuals and businesses, Move Colorado believes:

- » Colorado's General Assembly should consistently look for opportunities to support funding to CDOT from the state's General Fund to fill the consistent gap in funding for maintenance and operations. We support using funds efficiently to improve the transportation system and economic health.
- » CDOT, local agencies, and transit agencies should actively pursue all federal funding options available, including the recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Grants, to address existing and projected needs throughout the state.
- » When appropriate, Colorado's electorate should be given the opportunity to increase transportation funding to meet local and state priorities and initiatives.



COLORADO'S STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES MUST USE ALL AVAILABLE TOOLS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Coloradans are resourceful and proactive: when a need exists, we roll up our sleeves and find ways to fulfill that need. That level of engagement is necessary, beneficial, and should be embraced across all levels of government. It is critical that transportation agencies, including counties and municipalities, understand and leverage all funding opportunities.

To ensure Colorado's vast transportation system meets the needs of both individuals and businesses in all regions of the Centennial State, Move Colorado believes:

- » Governments and agencies that deliver infrastructure improvement projects should continue to embrace public-private partnerships and alternative delivery models, where appropriate and feasible. Colorado should consistently look to leverage best practices both from previous local projects and other states.
- » Municipal governments must have access to financing tools and funding approaches, such as local elections and regional transportation authorities (referred to as RTAs), which allow them to address local needs.

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COLORADO'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS - AND SHOULD BE - ALL MODES WORKING TOGETHER

In 1991, the same year as the last gas tax increase, the Colorado Department of Highways became the Colorado Department of Transportation, making way for an integrated approach to the movement of people and goods across the Centennial State. Today there are more than 50 transit agencies and related entities in our state.

During the last three decades, real progress has been made at the state and local level to adopt policies and practices that enhance a multi-modal transportation system including roads and bridges, transit, and increased bicycle and pedestrian-friendly options.

To ensure Colorado's multi-modal transportation system continues to serve the needs of all Coloradans, Move Colorado believes:

Colorado's transportation system needs to be well balanced with investment in all modes to support access, equity, and sustainability of our built and diversified system.

- » A forward-looking approach is imperative to providing a thriving transportation system. We must look to the future while also meeting current system needs.
- » Colorado is a large state where a one-size fits all solution is not feasible. We must consider all options to meet our transportation needs and develop truly multimodal approaches that work to serve the regions, counties, and municipalities.



COLORADO'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MUST EMBRACE SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND RESILIENCE

Colorado's ethos embodies the connection between protecting the place we call home and investigating what the future and advancement can bring. In recent years, transportation planning has experienced an increased effort in quantifying – and mitigating – the possible impacts of system growth.

To ensure Colorado's transportation system continues to meet the needs of the state's citizens and businesses, while being mindful of our current and future environment, Move Colorado believes:

- » To improve system efficiency and air quality, our major population centers need to provide robust and connected transportation options that include transit, non-motorized, and motorized options to responsibly meet the growing needs of an evolving population.
- » We should be encouraging innovation by modifying policies and agency expectations to support the use of new approaches to sustainability in our transportation systems. For example, utilizing new material types, new contracting methods, and new implementation processes.
- » Our transportation system needs to provide resilience to allow for adequate emergency response and evacuation routes in the event of natural disasters.



TECHNOLOGY IS RAPIDLY ADVANCING AND WILL BE A KEY DRIVER IN THE FUTURE OF COLORADO'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

We see advances in technology every day in our lives and there is no doubt the transportation industry will continue to incorporate technology to the benefit of the system.

To ensure Colorado's transportation system uses technology to maximize benefits, Move Colorado believes:

- » Enabling the connectivity that is needed to drive the full benefits of applications such as connected and automated vehicles, logistics management, and smarter and better maintained infrastructure requires investing in and building new and emerging communications infrastructure and platforms.
- » We encourage a collaboration between public and private sectors to apply, learn, and adapt new ways of using data in the transportation and logistics sectors.
- » There will always be a need for a robust infrastructure, even with the adoption of new technologies such as alternative fuel vehicles.