

MOVE COLORADO WORKSHOP NOTE

Thursday, October 10, 2024 | 4:00–7:00 pm | HDR Office

PURPOSE: Agree on Move Colorado's strategic platform, and identify work plan elements.

Platform/Vision Elements

- Transportation is a **priority for all**: access to **transportation that meets your needs**
 - Directly related to quality of life
- **Meeting users' mobility needs today** while aspiring to a visionary future
 - How do we reach this vision? What does that transition look like?
- **Consistency in funding** that is distributed across geographies, modes, and agencies
 - And get the hell out of the way!
- **Forward-thinking and fiscally responsible maintenance** that ensure a resilient system for all Coloradans for generations to come
- **Safely and reliably** moving people and goods
- **Multiple modes** that incorporate diverse and nuanced solutions
- **Geographic awareness** with regards to mode/type of solution, funding, capacity, and resources
- **Integration/collaboration/coordination/cooperation** between modes, agencies, etc.
- **Education of candidates and officials** about complex transportation context of our surface transportation system through factual, apolitical analysis of issues and solutions
- Environmental sustainability and **climate-resilient infrastructure** to withstand GHG emissions, natural disasters, weather events, and emergency evacuation.
- **Transparency in decision-making**

Next Steps

- **Refine the vision/platform.**
 - Further define, refine, and prioritize takeaways from today's discussion.
 - Compare these against the existing policy one-pager. (Consider aligning these under each of the existing policy statements.)
 - Review Ritter-era policy platform as inspiration for format and approach.
- **Build out a systematic work plan.**
 - Understand individuals' capacity to then identify roles and responsibilities
 - Make progress through committees.
 - Gather for working meetings every other month.
- **Gather data to support discussion.**

- Quantify the imbalance of the transportation system.
- **Participate actively in discussion.**
 - Listen to understand the political trajectory of transportation conversation and related issues.
 - Build coalitions with supporters of related issues by talking at chambers, housing advocacy groups, etc.
 - Identify messaging and discussion strategies (i.e., be persuasive but not annoying).
 - Raise the profile of these issues by attending meetings, asking consistent questions, etc.
- **Operationalize these concepts.**
 - Be prepared to support candidates/elected officials once they buy into the underlying premise.
 - Develop materials that outline ways to move forward (e.g., white papers, case studies).

Discussion Notes

Elements of Balanced Surface Transportation in Colorado

Discussion Objective: Establish a unified perspective on what it means to have a “balanced surface transportation system” from which to develop a platform to be shared for gubernatorial elections and with other elected officials. (i.e., If it’s multi-faceted, what are the facets?)

- **Multimodal:**
 - Providing different options for different needs based on priority of that system user
 - Resonates in Denver metro (and maybe along Front Range and mountain communities)
- **Geographic balance & context:**
 - Balance of needs looks different in rural communities
 - Distributing investment and funding across the state / metro areas
 - Different solutions for different geographies and users (e.g., Cycling is a fun recreational activity, but it should not be mixed with traffic; in rural areas, widen shoulders to make recreational biking safer)
 - Geographic context — Let’s identify a suite of options that can be applied with local context
- **Accessibility:**
 - Network that provides accessibility and opportunity to all potential users
- **Urban vs. suburban:**
 - We focus a lot on core (downtown) and major corridors (I-25 or I-70), but other places exist outside of these (e.g., Arvada’s limited transit and highway access)
- **Choice / Free will:**
 - Choice of modes to accommodate different stages of life (i.e., bus when single in city, care when married with kids)
- **Safety & Reliability:**
 - Public health implications from failure to maintain or snow-plow
 - Budget is constraint
 - Need investment in all modes of transportation because all modes contribute to safety
 - Infrastructure needs to be safe and reliable
- **Finances:**
 - \$1M for roads is not the same as \$1M for highways
 - If you disinvest, what is the impact on safety? or choice?
- **Consistent Prioritization:**
 - Wild swings in priorities (toll roads to EVs to transit to...)
- **Balancing today’s needs with vision of future:**
 - Meet the needs of today, while outlining aspirational vision
 - Realistically matching investment to needs, and incorporating cost benefits
 - Defining need — Do we define need by mode? Or by how people need to interact with the world? Need is not “good highways,” the underlying need is to get to where we need to go
 - Transportation is a lifeline for people getting to what they need
 - Have to move in a safe and efficient way

- Easier to expand and maintain highways (because we have always done that) than it is to invest in new modes
- Forward-thinking / long-term — invest ultimately in what is correct
- **Education:**
 - Provide politicians and communities the information they need to consider long-term feasibility (i.e., ignoring temporary fads)
 - History and effectiveness of Move as organization (i.e., Move has long been focused on funding)
 - No one-size-fits-all approach
 - It's not about picking and defending a mode; it's a nuanced conversation
 - What works? We've done so many projects, and we're not sure what works. There are too many cars.
 - "Snap a chalk line" and share data that supports assumptions and assertions
 - Where is investment now? Where should it be? What can that investment accomplish?
- **GHG / Environmental Sustainability:**
 - We need to acknowledge climate change in our platform somehow.
 - Stuck on a mode debate that is really a behavior debate; if individual people are not making those choices, we're not getting that collective change
- **Integration & Connectivity:**
 - If we presuppose that multiple modes will be available, we should integrate these with each other
 - Current problem is that a car breakdown on 270 means there's no alternative

Platform & Approach

- Platform needs to start from the context that **transportation is important** and enables people to get where they are going safely.
 - Don't focus on specific modes; rather, focus on balance that allows us meet the central need/problem we can all agree on.
 - Consider that this might be a vision instead of a platform because a platform implies a solution.
 - The gubernatorial election is an easy target because the Governor selects directors of CDOT and CEO.
 - Not only do we want to be able to articulate our platform, but also that the issues are complicated; simple solutions will not work.
 - Talk about transportation in a broader context to communicate a variety of solutions that relate to candidates' values.
 - Make statements that have smaller questions.
- Transportation as a tool for social engineering: To what extent do we accept this? Transportation seems to be a tool being used a lot to advance other goals (e.g., GHG, bike/ped, concentration on urban centers, etc.)
 - If it's being used as a tool towards these other purposes, we're getting away from the goal of providing options for folks.
- Is this a platform for CDOT? Or at a more local level?
- Establish underlying values to guide our work: What is important? (i.e., We value transportation for these reasons, and we are going to act to...) What is our north star? (e.g., safety and accessibility)