

Mapping Colorado's Future Transportation System

Rural Colorado

Move Colorado envisions a transportation system that is safe, efficient, and resilient—one that drives economic growth, protects quality of life, and ensures mobility for every community across the state.

We take a statewide perspective, recognizing the unique needs of urban, suburban, rural, and resort areas. Our priorities are grounded in reality: transportation must support both today's demands and tomorrow's opportunities. That means funding all modes, investing in smart solutions, and tailoring strategies to reflect Colorado's geographic, economic, and environmental diversity.

We lead with pragmatism, collaboration, and bold vision—working to ensure that Colorado's transportation network is built for the challenges and opportunities ahead.



Key Challenges

- **Deteriorating Pavement:** [Rural interstate pavement ranks 47th nationally](#), indicating serious infrastructure deterioration.*
- **Safety:** Rural roads have a [higher fatality rate, ranking 32nd](#), largely due to narrow shoulders, limited passing zones, wildlife collisions, and deferred maintenance.*
- **Access and Distance:** Residents often face long travel distances to access basic services, employment, and healthcare.
- **Limited Infrastructure:** Many rural areas rely on two-lane highways with minimal transit availability, making mobility especially challenging for those without vehicles.

*Source: [Reason Foundation, 28th Annual Highway Report, March 2025](#)

Funding Realities

- **Lower Population, Less Funding:** Rural regions often receive less state and federal transportation funding due to lower population densities—even though they cover vast geographic areas with critical infrastructure needs.
- **Local Revenue Constraints:** Smaller counties and municipalities have limited tax bases, making it more difficult to fund local transportation improvements.
- **Misaligned Priorities:** State and federal emphasis on environmental and transit funding may not adequately address the core needs of rural road maintenance and safety.

Move Colorado Strategic Priorities



Preserve and Maintain:

Prioritize investments in core rural road networks to prevent further deterioration and enhance safety.



Support Rural Economies:

Strengthen transportation links that enable the movement of goods, services, and labor for agriculture, tourism, and resource-based industries.



Advance Funding Equity for Rural Colorado:

Advocate for allocation models that consider geographic coverage, economic contribution, and access—not just population.