

## ACTION ALERT



### ICYMI...

Today, the [Denver Post](#) strongly endorsed a new funding solution for our transportation infrastructure.

According to the Post, in 1991, the state spent about \$125.70 per person a year on transportation. By 2015, the state had added 2.1 million people, who are driving 2.6 billion more miles than in 1991, spending per person had dropped to \$68.94.

The Post concluded the editorial by urging lawmakers to solve our transportation funding problem, "We urge lawmakers to dig in and find a way to create a clear spending plan for any sales tax increase that Coloradans can support, and ask critics to at least give that plan a look. The time has long passed for playing shell games with our roads."

### We Need Your Help...

As state legislators embark on Day 28 of the 120-day session, we must encourage them to find a sustainable, long-term funding solution for transportation. In other words, help us keep the pressure on.

### Act Now....

- Contact your legislator. Thank them for their work and encourage them to make transportation funding a priority. Find your legislator [HERE](#).
- Join us on social media and ignite a Twitter storm. Use the hashtag #FixItCO and tweet about transportation or follow us @TeamFixItCO.
- Write a letter to the editor in support of finding a long-term funding solution for transportation. Submit to the [Denver Post](#) or your local paper.

### Share the Facts...

✓ Colorado's population has grown 53% since 1990 while the lane miles on our highways have only gone up by 2%.

- ✓ **48% of Colorado bridges need preventative maintenance and 5% are structurally deficient.** Additional transportation funding will allow us to maintain and improve the safety of our bridges.
  - ✓ **Poor road conditions – potholes and rough roads can cause damage to your vehicle’s tires and suspensions.** Properly maintaining our roads can save drivers as much as \$300 per year in vehicle repair bills.
  - ✓ **Public transit options help Colorado meet the increased demands** from our growing elderly population to age in place and provide greater flexibility for those with disabilities.
  - ✓ **Investing in transportation infrastructure is important to maintaining a strong economy.** Modernizing Colorado’s transportation system will strengthen our economy by putting people to work and attracting businesses and employers to Colorado.
  - ✓ **Infrastructure investment and construction jobs fuel our state’s economy...** every \$1 billion invested in nonresidential construction creates and sustains more than 28,000 jobs and another \$1.1 billion in personal earnings.
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***FixItCO is a coalition of stakeholders** from all four corners of Colorado and includes everyone from truckers to environmentalists. Learn more by following @TeamFixItCO and use the hashtag #FixItCO on Twitter.*



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**Business Leaders, Community Leaders, Environmental Groups &  
Concerned Citizens Commend Legislators  
for Commitment to Transportation Funding**  
*Colorado leaders advocate for Transportation Infrastructure*

Denver, CO – Today, leaders around the state commended legislators for their commitment to transportation and urged them to find a long-term, sustainable funding source for infrastructure across Colorado. In opening day speeches, legislators from both sides of the aisle acknowledged and prioritized the urgent need to improve and invest in Colorado's transportation infrastructure.

"Transportation is our priority this year because it is absolutely critical to job growth and a healthy economy. Our members are committed to working with legislators to ensure that we fund our transportation infrastructure," said **Loren Furman, Senior VP of State & Federal Government Relations, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI)**.

"Investing in transportation infrastructure in every corner of our state is important to maintaining a strong economy," said **Kelly Brough, President and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce**. "Without such investments, we can't maintain our current competitive advantage or improve our roads and bridges so our goods, workers, families, and visitors, can more easily move and contribute to our economy."

"Colorado's transportation infrastructure is in desperate need of maintenance and repair," said **Tony Milo, Executive Director, Colorado Contractors Association**. "This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue, it's a Colorado issue. For the future of our economy, for our safety, and for our quality of life, we must fund our transportation infrastructure."

"Our citizens and businesses need, and deserve, safe and efficient roads and other multi-modal ways to get around their communities and the state. The Metro Mayors Caucus recognizes that if the State doesn't address this issue, our quality of life will be harmed, and we will lose our competitive edge to states like Utah and Wyoming," said **Arvada Mayor Marc Williams, Chair, Metro Mayors Caucus Transportation Task Force**.

Currently, the primary source of funding for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), is the state gas tax. Unfortunately, the gas tax – \$.22 per gallon – does not increase annually with inflation and has not been increased since 1991. At the same time, cars have become

more fuel efficient which has created a declining collection of revenues and a \$9 billion list of needs for our transportation infrastructure.

“A comprehensive transportation solution provides choices for transit, pedestrians, and bikes,” said **Will Toor, director of the transportation program at the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)**. “Providing transportation choices to Coloradans is critical to the success of our transportation infrastructure and to our quality of life.”

“We are hopeful for a transportation funding solution that acknowledges transit needs in rural Colorado and around the state,” said **Ann Rajewski, Executive Director, Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA)**.

“Transportation is the lifeblood for our state’s economy and our lack of investment in our infrastructure is adversely affecting business development and jobs within our state. Regardless of who you are, all of our citizens pay a steep and ever increasing price for the deficiencies in our transportation system whether it is in longer commute times, higher costs for goods, or sadly even in accidents as safety is compromised,” said **Greg Fulton, Executive Director, Colorado Motor Carriers Association**.

Since 1990, Colorado’s population has grown 53% while the lane miles on Colorado highways have only increased by 2%. This discrepancy has created an enormous sense of urgency to address the issue from communities around the state.

“Transportation is one of the top two issues most concerning to our business members and prospects, and having a reliable, efficient, multi-modal transportation system is essential to our economic success,” continued **Dirk Draper, president and CEO of the Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation**. “We can’t keep kicking this can down the road if we want to remain competitive as a state. The Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC has been working with numerous partners toward a solution and getting out of the zero-sum game of regions competing against each other for limited funding.”

“Transportation is not just a Denver-metro problem, its an issue in communities across Colorado and a priority for Progressive 15,” said **Cathy Shull, Executive Director, Progressive 15**. “Transportation infrastructure is absolutely critical to growing our economy, addressing safety issues, and providing options for our communities. We urge legislators to help us find a funding solution.”

“Colorado’s transportation infrastructure is literally crumbling beneath us, and we must identify funding solutions this session. CLUB 20 has been a fierce advocate on transportation issues for more than 60 years and we look forward to working with the legislature to get this problem solved,” said **Christian Reece, Executive Director, CLUB 20**.

“Colorado’s statewide transportation system requires statewide funding that can address the variety of needs in different parts of the system. Those needs include capacity, safety and maintenance, and rural needs may be different from urban needs, but all the parts must be kept in good condition to support our quality of life. We must all work together to provide sustainable funding that can create safe and efficient mobility throughout the state,” said **Bob Stovall, Legislative Liaison, Action 22**.

“Colorado’s safety and economic wellbeing is dependent on a robust infrastructure system. Investment in our transportation system is essential but it is no small task and we must

work together. We applaud the Legislature's courage to address transportation investment this session and we look forward to supporting their efforts," **Jeffery Kullman, President, Move Colorado.**

"We applaud Senate President Grantham and House Speaker Duran for elevating the growing crisis in Colorado facing our transportation system and the need for a much greater investment now and in the years to come. Their leadership on this issue is indispensable because allowing the transportation status quo to idle in neutral threatens to throw our economy and our quality of life into reverse. Another year cannot go by without a solution to our transportation crisis," said **Sandra Hagen Solin, Fix Colorado Roads.**

Over the next 120 days, follow the coalition on Twitter @TeamFixItCO and follow the progress of the transportation debate on Twitter at #FixItCO.

*FixItCO is a coalition of business leaders, community organizations, environmental groups, and concerned citizens dedicated to finding a long-term, sustainable funding source for transportation.*

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