



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FixItCO Coalition Members Praise Legislators for Leadership on Transportation**

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

Denver, CO – Today, FixItCO coalition members commended legislators for their efforts to address transportation. 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.

President of the Senate Kevin Grantham and Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran introduced legislation to secure a long-term, sustainable funding solution for transportation. While details of the bill will be debated through the legislative process, business advocates, community leaders, environmental groups, and concerned citizens applauded the announcement.

"Transportation is a top issue for the business community this year, and for good reason," "Without significant investment in our infrastructure, our economy will suffer, job growth will suffer, and Coloradans will continue to be hit in the pocket book," said **Kelly Brough, President and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce**. "It is encouraging to see legislators work together and lead this important discussion."

"Everyone agrees, Colorado's transportation infrastructure is in desperate need of maintenance and repair. This is an issue that impacts every single Coloradan and doing nothing is simply not an option," said **Loren Furman, Senior VP of State & Federal Government Relations, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI)**. "The announcement today is a very promising first step to address the needs of our transportation infrastructure and we applaud legislators on both sides of the aisle for their efforts."

"Our businesses depend on the reliability and safety of our state's infrastructure system as a means for their viability and success. We applaud our elected leaders in the statehouse for recognizing the need to focus on this issue with the introduction of this measure and encourage them to keep the momentum going on the discussion," said **Bob Golden, President and CEO, South Metro Denver Chamber**.

"A long term and reliable source of transportation funding is absolutely necessary to support our state's infrastructure and, in turn, our opportunities to retain and recruit businesses to Colorado.

This bill is an important vehicle to encourage focus on this issue by our legislators and we are pleased with its introduction," said **Jeff Wasden, President, Colorado Business Roundtable**.

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.

"The announcement today is good news for Coloradans. Without a significant investment in our infrastructure, our economy is at risk, our safety is at risk, and the cost to Colorado families in both time and money is increasing," said **Arvada Mayor Marc Williams, Chair, Metro Mayors Caucus Transportation Task Force**. "Our citizens and businesses need and deserve a transportation infrastructure that is efficient, safe, and includes mobility choices for traveling around their community."

"This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue and it's not a rural issue or an urban issue, it's a Colorado issue and a top priority for Progressive 15," said **Cathy Shull, Executive Director, Progressive 15**. "Improving our transportation infrastructure is absolutely critical to growing our economy, moving goods to market, and keeping our citizens safe. Hats off to our legislators for taking this important step to solve the problem."

"We have long identified transportation funding as a priority for our organization - with a specific eye toward the maintenance of our rural infrastructure that supports critical commerce and farm to market movement. We very much appreciate the introduction of this bill and look forward to engaging in the discussion," **Chad Vorthmann, Executive Vice President, Colorado Farm Bureau**.

"We applaud the commitment and leadership shown by our legislators to prioritize and identify transportation funding this session. We remain hopeful that we can identify a path forward to a long term and sustainable source of transportation funding and are pleased to see the introduction of this measure," said **Tony Milo, Executive Director, Colorado Contractors Association**.

"We commend our legislative leadership for their steadfast focus on this important issue. We must all work together to advance a transportation funding mechanism to our voters and we are committed to engaging constructively in that discussion." **Jeffery Kullman, President, Move Colorado**.

According to a report issued last week by TRIP, a national transportation organization, 41 percent of major, locally and state-maintained urban roads are in poor condition and six percent of Colorado's locally and state-maintained bridges are structurally deficient. Major urban roads are becoming increasingly congested and drivers are wasting significant amounts of time and fuel each year.

In fact, roads and bridges that are deteriorated, congested or lack some desirable safety features cost Colorado motorists a total of \$6.8 billion statewide annually - \$2,162 per driver in the Denver urban area - due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays.

"First and foremost, we thank lawmakers for their commitment to seeking a solution to this very critical and complex issue. A truly successful transportation solution provides choices for transit, pedestrians, and bikes," said **Will Toor, Director of the transportation program at the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)**. "We look forward to working with legislators to ensure that an investment in our transportation infrastructure provides mobility choices for Coloradans."

"The introduction of this measure to identify additional funds for our entire transportation system, including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements statewide, is encouraging to our organization. This issue is too great a priority for delay," said **Julie George, Policy Director, Live Well Colorado**.

"As fierce advocates for solving our infrastructure needs, we commend legislative leadership for making transportation a priority. The announcement today is good news for CLUB 20 members. Our roads and highways are crumbling and we simply can't wait any longer for a solution." said **Christian Reece, Executive Director, CLUB 20**.

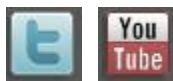
"On the issue of transportation, we must all work together to identify a sustainable funding solution that will create safe and efficient mobility throughout the state. The proposed legislation is a promising step toward safe and efficient mobility throughout southern Colorado and across the entire state," said **Ivor Hill, Chairman of the Board for Action 22**.

"A functioning transportation system is a critical draw for people who want to live in our state. We appreciate our legislative leadership's focus on this issue and look forward to the debate on this bill," said **Ted Leighty, Vice President of Government Affairs, Colorado Association of Realtors**.

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*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. Over the remaining days of the legislative session, follow the FixItCO coalition on Twitter @TeamFixItCO and follow the progress of the transportation debate on Twitter at #FixItCO.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

**Report available at: [tripnet.org](http://tripnet.org)**

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**DENVER MOTORISTS LOSE NEARLY \$2,200 PER YEAR ON ROADS THAT ARE ROUGH, CONGESTED & LACK SOME SAFETY FEATURES - \$6.8 BILLION STATEWIDE. COSTS WILL RISE AND CONDITIONS WILL WORSEN WITHOUT INCREASED FUNDING**

*Eds.: The report includes regional pavement conditions, congestion levels, highway safety data, and cost breakdowns for the Colorado Springs, Denver, Northern Colorado, Grand Junction and Pueblo urban areas. Info-graphics for each area can be downloaded [here](#).*

**Denver, CO** – Roads and bridges that are deteriorated, congested or lack some desirable safety features cost Colorado motorists a total of \$6.8 billion statewide annually - \$2,162 per driver in the Denver urban area - due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays. Increased investment in transportation improvements at the local, state and federal levels could relieve traffic congestion, improve road, bridge and transit conditions, boost safety, and support long-term economic growth in Colorado, according to a new report released today by [TRIP](#), a Washington, DC based national transportation organization.

The TRIP report, “[Colorado Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State’s Need for Safe, Smooth and Efficient Mobility](#),” finds that throughout Colorado, 41 percent of major, locally and state-maintained urban roads are in poor condition and six percent of Colorado’s locally and state-maintained bridges are structurally deficient. The state’s major urban roads are becoming increasingly congested, with drivers wasting significant amounts of time and fuel each year. And, more than 2,400 people were killed in crashes on Colorado’s roads from 2011 to 2015.

Driving on Denver area roads costs the average driver \$2,162 per year in the form of extra vehicle operating costs (VOC) as a result of driving on roads in need of repair, lost time and fuel due to congestion-related delays, and the costs of traffic crashes in which roadway features likely were a contributing factor. The TRIP report calculates the cost to motorists of insufficient roads in the Colorado Springs, Denver, Northern Colorado, Grand Junction and Pueblo urban areas. A breakdown of the costs per motorist in each area along with a statewide total is below.

Location	VOC	Safety	Congestion	TOTAL
Colorado Springs	\$776	\$406	\$772	\$1,954
Denver	\$753	\$308	\$1,101	\$2,162
Northern Colorado	\$440	\$575	\$381	\$1,396
Grand Junction	\$629	\$423	\$212	\$1,264
Pueblo	\$732	\$571	\$250	\$1,553
<b>Colorado - Statewide</b>	<b>\$2.3 Billion</b>	<b>\$1.6 Billion</b>	<b>\$2.9 Billion</b>	<b>\$6.8 Billion</b>

“Our transportation infrastructure is falling further and further behind,” said Kelly Brough, president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. “If we want to continue to grow our economy, ensure our quality of life, and create jobs, we must build and invest in a system that provides mobility choices for everyone-

from increased lanes to technology solutions to bicycle and pedestrian options. Transportation is our top priority and we urge lawmakers to join us in finding a long-term, sustainable funding source for our infrastructure needs.”

The TRIP report finds that 80 percent of major locally and state-maintained roads in the Denver urban area are in poor or mediocre condition, costing the average motorist an additional \$753 each year in extra vehicle operating costs, including accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

“Colorado has experienced unprecedented growth in the last 20 years, but the state lacks a reliable and sustainable long term funding source to meet our resulting transportation infrastructure needs,” said Bob Golden, president and CEO of the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce. “This report makes a direct connection between that lack of investment and the impact to our pocketbooks. Now, more than ever, we need our policymakers to identify a solution to address this challenge. The cost to our businesses and our citizens of doing nothing is far too extreme.”

Traffic congestion in the Denver area is worsening, causing 49 annual hours of delay for the average motorist and costing each driver \$1,101 annually in lost time and wasted fuel.

“Business leaders around our state see Colorado trailing states such as Utah and Texas, two of our biggest competitors, on key commerce and tourism opportunities due to outdated, unmaintained and congested roadways,” said Jeff Wasden, president of the Colorado Business Roundtable. “We can no longer kick this can down the road and this report makes that connection in a very real way.”

Six percent of Colorado’s bridges are structurally deficient, with significant deterioration to the bridge deck, supports or other major components. In the Denver urban area, five percent of bridges are structurally deficient.

Traffic crashes in Colorado claimed the lives of 2,434 people between 2011 and 2015. Colorado’s overall traffic fatality rate of 1.08 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel is lower than the national average of 1.13. In the Denver urban area, on average, 110 people were killed in traffic crashes in each of the last three years.

“Investing in our transportation infrastructure is absolutely critical to creating jobs and fostering a healthy economy,” said Loren Furman, senior vice president of state and federal affairs for the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry. “Transportation is, without a doubt, the number one priority for our members.”

The efficiency and condition of Colorado’s transportation system, particularly its highways, is critical to the health of the state’s economy. Annually, \$323 billion in goods are shipped to and from sites in Colorado, mostly by truck. Seventy-five percent of the goods shipped annually to and from sites in Colorado are carried by trucks and another 21 percent are carried by courier services or multiple mode deliveries, which include trucking.

“These conditions are only going to get worse, increasing the additional costs to motorists, if greater investment is not made available at the state and local levels of government,” said Will Wilkins, TRIP’s executive director. “Without adequate funding, Colorado’s transportation system will become increasingly deteriorated and congested, hampering economic growth and quality of life of the state’s residents.”

## 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.***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 11, 2017

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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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