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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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