



November 19, 2008

Governor Bill Ritter  
Members of the Colorado General Assembly

Re: Report and recommendations of the  
Colorado Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel

Colorado's transportation system is in crisis. Our highways and bridges are crumbling. The growth in vehicle miles traveled is far in excess of population growth and promises to cripple mobility in this state. Congestion is no longer limited to just metro Denver but is now common on intercity routes and between the metro area and mountain recreation. For more than a decade the steady decline of transportation funding has been ignored until we can no longer even maintain the status quo with the limited funding available today. With these realities in mind, four regional organizations representing every part of Colorado—Action 22, Club 20, the Metro Mayors Caucus, and Progressive 15—have come together to petition Governor Bill Ritter and the Colorado General Assembly to make transportation system investment their highest priority until such time as the deterioration of the system can be stemmed and a sustainable plan for repair, reconstruction, and appropriate expansion of the existing multi-modal system is in place.

Colorado's population has grown 44% since 1990 to more than 4.7 million people, with another 1.2 million expected by 2020. These forecasts are not new, yet instead of ensuring adequate resources to maintain even the current deplorable conditions in the system, we have chosen to reduce our level of investment. This is completely unacceptable!

In the last decade alone the principal source of funding for Colorado's transportation system, the motor fuel tax, has been decimated by inflation of construction costs until at least two-thirds of its purchasing power has evaporated. The evidence of this substantial loss of resources is clear. Exposed reinforcing steel is visible under too many of our bridges, highway surface conditions grow worse year after year, inadequate and unsafe shoulders are common on major highways throughout the state, and the growth of congestion, even in rural areas, is becoming intolerable.

The Colorado Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel, a diverse group of 32 Coloradans including transportation experts, policy makers, business and civic leaders from all over the State, spent most of 2007 studying this problem. The Panel's final report clearly details the severity of the problem and makes significant policy and program recommendations including recommended minimum funding levels for ten different investment categories. The Panel also identified a variety of potential funding sources to illustrate how the recommended investment thresholds might be met. Our four organizations have passed resolutions in strong support of the Panel's work and recommendations. We believe that the health of Colorado's economy and preservation of our quality of life require immediate attention to this problem and we ask you, Governor Ritter and members of the General Assembly, to take the lead and make a 21<sup>st</sup> Century transportation system Colorado's number one priority.

Action 22, Club 20, the Metro Mayors Caucus, and Progressive 15 are committed to providing leadership in our communities to help generate the civic and political will necessary to make the substantial investments required. We will help to educate the public in this endeavor to ensure Colorado's transportation and mobility future. Allow us to participate with you in crafting the solutions so that we may be there in support of their implementation. Please begin now to take the necessary steps to reverse our transportation crisis, and call on us to do our part in our regions of the State.

Sincerely,



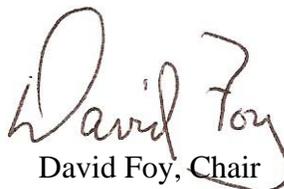
Ken Conyers, Chair  
Action 22



Rikki Santarelli, Chair  
Club 20



Randy Pye, Chair  
Metro Mayors Caucus



David Foy, Chair  
Progressive 15