

# **B 001 07**

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

### **Creating the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel.

#### **1. Background and Need**

A sound infrastructure, including a multi-modal transportation network, is essential to serving Colorado's growing population and sustaining a vibrant economy. Whether used for commerce, recreation, agriculture, or for getting our children to and from school, a strong and integrated transportation system is vital.

Unfortunately, Colorado's transportation system is deteriorating and fails to meet our needs. Colorado has not made a major investment in transportation resources since 1990. Many roads and bridges are in a desperate state of disrepair and traffic congestion is growing worse. Congestion in urban areas costs each of us \$1,500 annually in lost productivity and time. Additionally, poor road conditions cost motorists \$264 a year in operating and repair expenses.

The Colorado Department of Transportation and others have spent considerable time and money studying our transportation needs, investing more than \$100 million on environmental reviews and plans to improve traffic flow on roadways such as US 36, I-70, I-25 and US 287. These plans, and those developed in regional corridors throughout the state, have provided us with a wealth of options for investing in our transportation infrastructure. We must now make wise use of these plans while bringing a fresh, balanced approach to how we invest in our infrastructure, plan for future growth, and protect the environment. Simply stated, the process for funding our transportation system is antiquated and needs a 21st Century overhaul.

The Colorado Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel will enable us to determine project priorities and identify strategies to fund those projects. The mission of the Transportation and Finance Implementation Panel is to bring together a broad range of stakeholders to prioritize long-term sustainable transportation programs and funding options for a 21st Century multi-modal transportation system to support a vibrant economy and strong quality of life. To that end, the Panel will review previously proposed cost-effective transportation strategies, identify any overlooked areas such as developing a fuel infrastructure for the new energy economy, and explore the revenue streams that can support these initiatives. Specifically, the Panel will evaluate current spending practices; assess the transportation fiscal structure, funding and priority-setting

processes; and propose new funding mechanisms and priorities for existing and future projects.

## 2. Mission and Scope

The objectives of the Panel are to set the tone and vision for selecting and financing statewide transportation improvements and investment for the 21st Century; establish an achievable scope and determine priorities; recommend strategies for sustainable transportation funding sources and implementation plans; to be inclusive in bringing stakeholders to the table; and to build partnerships among those stakeholders.

To that end, the Panel will:

- A. Hold a statewide Transportation Summit. The summit will bring stakeholders together from around the state to address the transportation challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.
- B. Facilitate regional meetings to provide an opportunity for broader regional participation and input.
- C. Building on existing studies and suggestions, including but not limited to the CDOT 2030 plan, submit a final presentation and recommendations identifying transportation project priorities and proposing strategies to fund those projects to the Governor in November 2007.
- D. Utilize consensus-building procedures to ensure that all members of the panel are comfortable with final recommendations.

## 3. Membership

- A. The Panel shall be composed of thirty-two (32) members, appointed by the Governor and representing the following communities:
  - a) Transportation, including representatives of regional transportation corridors, regional transit authorities, auto associations, freight industry, highway, transit, aviation, and rail industries, and the Colorado Department of Transportation.
  - b) Finance, including banking, regional chambers of commerce and economic development corporations, businesses, financial institutions and economists.
  - c) Government, including tourism, city, county, and municipal planning organizations, education representatives, and the state legislature.

- d) Public Interest, including representatives organizations representing environmental interests, the disabled and elderly, public safety interests, and farming and agricultural interests
- B. Any individual member may represent more than one of the above categories.
- C. The panel will have three co-chairs, to be appointed by the Governor.
- D. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation shall serve as an ex-officio member.
- E. The Panel may create subcommittees as needed to address specific issues. Examples of such subcommittees might include a technical advisory committee to evaluate funding options and regional subcommittees to identify priority infrastructure investments for each region.
- F. The Commission shall make every effort to reach consensus on final recommendations. Final recommendations shall only be adopted upon a two-thirds vote of the Commission members. At least eighteen (18) members are required for a quorum.

#### 4. Staffing and Resources

In addition to staff at the Governor's Office, the Department of Transportation shall provide to the Panel necessary support, information on transportation needs, data, analytical information, and administrative support. The Panel shall have the power to accept money and in-kind contributions from private entities only to the extent such donations are necessary to cover its expenses. Any money contributed to the Panel shall be directed to the Office of the Governor and deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Colorado in an account within the Office of the Governor's budget. Members of the Panel shall serve without compensation, but may, upon the discretion of the chair and approval of the Office of the Governor, be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred.

#### 5. Directive

The Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel is hereby created.

#### 6. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until June 30, 2008, at which time the panel shall be dissolved.

GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado, this 26th day  
of March, 2007

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor