

Transportation Finance Outlook

by Sandra Solin Hagen



Transportation Outlook examines critical state and federal finance issues in legislation, regulations and agency decisions impacting transportation funding.

Editor Sandra Solin Hagen can be reached at 303-837-1714 or through the Capitol Solutions Website www.capitol-solutions.com

Move Colorado also publishes in-depth white papers that examine these issues in greater detail.

Move Colorado is a private industry organization that provides information, sponsors education programs, and supports the efforts of Colorado community, business and political leaders to solve transportation finance issues.

Contact us:
www.movecolorado.org

Message from the Editor

The advocacy program of *Move Colorado* is designed to help citizens and policymakers plan, develop, finance and maintain a quality statewide, multi-modal transportation infrastructure. Our priorities for 2007 are to aggressively advocate preserving SB1 & HB1310 funding for transportation. Our longer term priority will involve a much broader program: to solve the transportation funding crisis facing Colorado. We will distribute Transportation Finance Outlook to the new Move Colorado Legislative Network. Call on us for information, contact your legislators regularly with our message, and help us **Move Colorado!**

Protect the Integrity of SB1 and HB 1310 – “Colorado’s Commitment to Transportation”

This year, the Legislature will again hear about the real value of SB1 for transportation. After the passage of Referendum C, Transportation Advocates and CDOT initiated a practice of telling legislators how allocations to other programs reduce the funds available to transportation. Decisions to fund other programs drain the funds that would ultimately be available for transportation through SB1. Last year, the front end spending was restrained, and there was a real desire to keep faith with voters’ expression of support for transportation. This is the good news.

This year, it will be more difficult, therefore *it is even more important than ever to communicate to Legislators and the Governor how critical these funds are to transportation funding*. Just because the economic forecasts are more optimistic, it does not follow that we can restore or create more programs. The projections will change, and they will change over time. *To realize the commitment of SB1 funds that was embedded in the commitment to transportation funding now being realized by the passage of Referendum C, we need to maintain that funding over time*. As the numbers become available, we will distribute an analysis in subsequent issues of Outlook. It will help make the case for stable, predictable transportation funding.

Transportation Legislative Caucus

Highlighting new opportunities for transportation to get out the message this year is the creation of a Legislative Transportation Caucus which meets to discuss and learn about transportation issues during the legislative session. Legislators who participate in the Caucus have the opportunity to identify transportation corridors, and issues of interest. Every meeting will feature an update on a specific corridor. So far, presentations on transportation finance, monitoring SB1 legislative impacts, and a briefing on the I-70 Corridor, have also included speakers from Move Colorado, CCA, and the I-70 Mountain Corridor Coalition. The Caucus is Co-Chaired by Representative Buffie McFadyen, and Senator Suzanne Williams.

Transportation Advocates: Coordinates Information for Transportation

A Transportation Advocates group has been organized again this legislative session to coordinate support for transportation funding. The action group was formed following the passage of Referendum C. This is a first line legislative network for transportation finance issues. **CDOT Legislative Information:** fast, up-to-date information on what’s happening is provided to Transportation Advocates by Herman Stockinger at (303) 757-9077 or herman.stockinger@dot.state.co.us He is tracking transportation legislation and is compiling the SB1 impact list for legislators.

The Capitol Solutions/CCA : You’re Team for Transportation Advocacy

Contact Us: 303-837-1714 or www.capitol-solutions.com