



**RESTORE LONG TERM FUNDING TO TRANSPORTATION
SUPPORT AMENDMENT L.001 TO SENATE BILL 262**

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In the ongoing transportation funding and finance debate, Fix Colorado Roads and the heads of Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development organizations around the state have consistently urged the legislature to enact a balanced and pragmatic solution that is politically and financially sound, addresses the volatility of transportation funding and jumpstarts critical transportation projects across the entire state of Colorado.

We urged you then, as we do now, to enact a balanced solution that establishes a new long term, dedicated and sustainable source of funds for Colorado's system, **restores Colorado's commitment to transportation within our state budget**, and reflects the expectations and preferences of voters.

As one of the essential functions of government, transportation should be a permanent and stable part of our state budget.

Colorado is the only state among our economic competitors and surrounding states that doesn't have a stable and predictable general fund appropriation for transportation. Utah dedicates 25% of its state sales taxes from its general fund to transportation in addition to its recent increase in taxes.

In 2009, the flawed SB 228 replaced a protected source of transportation funds in the form of Senate Bill 1. Until then, transportation always had a general fund appropriation. In SB 262, the JBC acknowledges the problems of 228 and underscores the need for a permanent and stable source of transportation funding in Colorado.

Today, we have an opportunity to restore Colorado's commitment to transportation by extending the provisions of SB 262 for 20 years.

SENATE BILL 262: HUTF AND CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

- SB 262 proposes to repeal and replace the current SB 228 policy to make a fixed appropriation of \$160M for transportation in FY 18-19 and FY 19-20.
- SB 262 establishes a base level of funding for transportation at \$160M
 - Base funding is not unlike any other line item in the budget
- The JBC's work on SB 262, and a continuation of the funding, doesn't and will not harm any other players in the budget
- SB 262 provides the path for inclusion of a long term existing general fund source into the larger transportation funding/finance debate

AMENDMENT L.001

- L.001 extends the provisions of SB 262 for an additional 17 years to continue the fixed amount of funding of \$160M for a 20 year period
 - 20 years covers the 20 year bonding timeline in all finance proposals
- Re-establishes a stable general fund funding mechanism for transportation.
 - Continues our past tradition of providing funding from the general fund
 - Re-establishes a policy that worked for decades in our state budget.
- Amendments have no affect on the current year long bill budget
- As this is a continuation of the base funding over the period of time, it does not take monies from any other player or interest in the budget

Amendment necessary in larger transportation debate

- Voters in recent polling have been clear in their desire to see existing resources prioritized before, or concurrent with, their willingness to open their pocketbooks to fund transportation
- A balanced transportation funding and finance proposal needs to include existing funds to demonstrate "skin in the game" by the state.
- Inclusion of a general fund source of funds for transportation would allow a reduction in any proposed tax increase for transportation.