

2016 ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ACEC COLORADO-MEMBER FIRMS

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING: With Colorado's current population at about 5 Million and is expected to grow to 8 Million by 2040, we urge the Legislature and Governor to support legislation that preserves and provides additional and innovative programs to increase the annual funding of Colorado's transportation system. Investment in transportation infrastructure plays an essential role in protecting public health and safety, promoting commerce and keeping Colorado competitive and forms the basis of continued economic growth. Having a reliable revenue stream for transportation infrastructure projects is vital for long-ranging planning since it takes decades for many projects to go from concept to completion.

- *Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) are a viable funding mechanism especially for large, complex transportation projects. However, it should be noted that P3s are also used for water infrastructure projects and buildings such as schools, civic centers, and hospitals.*
- *SB09-228 provided a revenue stream for transportation and capitol construction that is being threatened by the Tabor limits. This statute replaced SB01 in 2009 during the downturn in the economy so that the limited funds could go to other needed services. With SB09-228, transportation was to be funded when the economy recovered from the recession.*
- *Colorado's traffic congestion and resulting economic cost impacts are increasing.*
- *Colorado's road and bridge systems are in a deterioration cycle. FASTER statute has made improvements in this area but more is still needed.*
- *Sustainable funding mechanisms are preferred over volatile cyclic revenue streams.*
- *Effective, efficient multi-modal mobility is essential to quality of life, safety, and economic vitality.*

WATER RESOURCES: We strongly support continued funding for the Severance Tax Perpetual Base and the Construction Fund of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. These funds are necessary to support the loans, grants and studies thereby creating jobs to develop and protect Colorado's water supply. We appreciate the restoration of funds borrowed for the General Fund.

- *Small community water and wastewater systems face overwhelming costs to maintain and update their facilities. State loans and grants are essential to closing this backlog.*
- *Colorado's duty to protect its water supplies and to facilitate the beneficial use of water needs support. The state must continue to fund the tasks necessary to assure our water supply for the future Colorado economy.*

ENERGY: We encourage the Legislature and Governor to provide the leadership and create the policies required to make Colorado a leader in environmentally responsible development and management of our energy resources. The demands of a growing population with rising energy demands will require significant new sources of energy in the years to come.

- *Colorado's economy and security depend on reliable and affordable energy supply.*

- *Our energy security requires an “all of the above” strategy that expands the domestic production of both fossil fuels and renewable energy that can be tapped for cost-effective energy.*
- *Development of emerging energy technology can be accomplished locally.*
- *Supply of energy must be balanced for reliable supply and distribution.*
- *In order for Colorado to maintain a safe, responsible, consistent and developer friendly environment, policies related to exploration and development of oil and gas need to remain at the state level, controlled by the COGCC.*
- *Encourage best practices in water management for energy.*
- *Conservation, sustainability and environmental considerations are paramount in the development of Infrastructure and the Built Environment.*

BUSINESS PRACTICES: We encourage the Legislature and Governor to provide a positive climate that encourages private sector growth, economic development for public prosperity and also provides protection for the public by insisting that the licensed professionals perform the work.

- *Encourage increased use of private sector services for growth of jobs and tax revenues to Colorado.*
- *Maximizing use of the private sector for “as needed” engineering and related services will provide economic benefits of improved performance and increased value to taxpayers through reduced project costs and reduced project schedules.*
- *Cost-effective procurement for professional services is driven by competitive Qualification Based Selection (QBS) procedures.*
- *Encourage innovation by the partnership of the private sector with governmental agencies to develop new technologies.*
- *Streamline regulations by removing the outdated and reviewing all regulations for necessity.*
- *Market-based solutions affecting insurance companies will create more competition with better pricing for insurance policies for businesses in Colorado.*
- *Current statutes hamper for-sale multi-family development and the opportunity to repair. Design professionals have limited accessibility to obtain professional liability insurance that is necessary to do this work. Many of the proposed fixes to this issue do not eliminate the exposure of the design professional.*

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Colorado is the business association of approximately 230 member firms employing more than 11,000 employees in the independent private practice of consulting engineering. ACEC Colorado is an excellent resource for decision makers and the public on issues of a technical nature and on business matters.

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