

## 2018 ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ACEC COLORADO MEMBER FIRMS

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING:** With Colorado's current population over 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.

- *A reliable and sustainable revenue stream for transportation infrastructure projects is vital for long-ranging planning since it takes years for many projects to go from concept to completion. Current funding levels are not allowing us to keep up with the existing system. With the new revenue that the state coffers is currently receiving, the state is in an excellent position to increase investment in our infrastructure system.*
- *Colorado's traffic congestion and resulting economic cost impacts are increasing. The public has been expressing their frustration with the congestion and the quality and state of repair of our existing system.*
- *Recruitment and retention of a quality workforce is dependent on one's ability to get to and from their workplace safely, easily, and in a timely manner.*
- *Effective, efficient multi-modal mobility is essential to quality of life, safety, and economic vitality.*
- *The current statewide plan, developed by CDOT and with the involvement of the state's MPOs and RTPs, is showing \$1B in annual unfunded transportation needs.*
- *All construction delivery options need to be available. In partnership with the design and construction industry, the Department of Transportation has developed a transparent and fair method for determining the most efficient delivery method that maximizes the work completed and with the most benefit to the public, including traditional bid projects, construction management / general contractor, design/build, and public private partnerships, and other innovative contracting methods. The selection of the appropriate delivery method should be left to the discretion of the CDOT engineers and the construction industry who are closest to these projects.*

**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.*
- *Encourage best practices in water management for energy.*
- *Conservation, sustainability and environmental considerations are paramount in the development of Infrastructure and the Built Environment.*
- *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.*

**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.*
- *Design professionals' professional liability insurance will only cover legal costs to the extent caused by the negligent errors and omissions of the design professional. Current statutes for multi-family for-sale or for-rent development pose significant risk to design professionals because of the limitations of their professional liability insurance coverage.*

*The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Colorado is the business association of approximately 250-member firms employing more than 11,500 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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