2019 ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ACEC COLORADO MEMBER FIRMS

TRANSPORTATION: With Colorado's current population over 5 Million and expected to growth 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, providing a good quality of life, promoting commerce and keeping Colorado competitive and forms the basis of continued economic growth. Maximize cost-effective and efficiency measures by contracting-out design and construction management services to the private sector.

- 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 maintaining the existing system or meeting increasing demands. 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 program engineers and the construction industry who are closest to these projects.

WATER RESOURCES: We strongly support funding of the Severance Tax Operational Fund and Perpetual Base Fund for construction programs managed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. We support proposed SB19-016 funding structure improvements to make the Severance Tax Operational Fund for "Tier 2" programs more reliable.

- Severance Tax Perpetual Base and the CWCB Construction Fund support loans and grants that are critical to achieving the measurable objectives identified in Colorado's Water Plan.
  - Measurable objectives included reducing the municipal and industrial supply-demand gap, achieving water conservation measures, preserving agricultural economic productivity, attaining necessary water storage, and developing stream management plans.
  - One of the Water Plan's measurable objectives was to sustainably fund the plan's implementation, including investment from the Severance Tax Perpetual Fund, and creation of bonding programs.
  - Support of loans, grants and studies create jobs to develop and protect Colorado's water supply.
- 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 provides protection for the public by insisting that the licensed professionals perform engineering work.

- Encourage more use of the private sector for "as needed" engineering and related services will result in economic benefits of increased jobs and tax receipts, improved project performance, and reduced project time and costs.
- Cost-effective procurement for professional services is driven by competitive Qualification Based Selection (QBS) procedures.
- Encourage innovation by developing new technologies through partnership with the private sector.
- Streamline project procedures by removing burdensome regulations and reviewing all regulations for necessity.
- Current laws affecting multi-family for-sale or for-rent development pose significant risk to design professionals because of the limitations of their professional liability insurance coverage. Design professionals' professional liability insurance will only cover legal costs to the extent caused by the negligent errors and omissions of the design professional.

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Colorado is the business association of 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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