

B 009 08

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Continuing the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order continuing the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel (the “Transportation Panel”).

I. Background and Need

A safe and reliable transportation system is important to the ongoing stability of our State’s economy and our quality of life in Colorado. Some of our State’s most prominent economic drivers – tourism, energy and agriculture – all rely heavily on our transportation system to help sustain, grow and deliver the products and services of each industry. Colorado needs a transportation system that can meet our mobility, accessibility, and environmental goals.

In 2007, I commissioned the Transportation Panel to evaluate transportation funding alternative and propose a transportation vision for the 21st Century. The Transportation Panel held a Transportation Summit on April 5, 2007, kicking off a valuable discussion on transportation infrastructure and funding needs. The Transportation Panel hosted thirteen meetings around the state, concluding its analysis in January of 2008 and issuing the *Colorado Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel: A Report to Colorado*. The report proposed a statewide vision for transportation, policy change recommendations, new investment categories and thresholds, along with five mechanisms to consider for increased investment in transportation. The Transportation Panel’s preferred investment goal was to add \$1.5 billion a year into the transportation system.

The Transportation Panel reported that our existing infrastructure is deteriorating at a rapid pace with 122 structurally deficient bridges statewide and 21% of our roadway surface condition at a zero-remaining service life. Congestion continues to increase as population, number of registered vehicles and total miles traveled increase. And, with the rising cost of energy, the Transportation Panel also recognized the need to invest in maintaining the integrity of the existing infrastructure, create more opportunities for people to make different transportation choices and develop strategies to reduce carbon based vehicle miles traveled.

Although the Transportation Panel's funding and policy recommendations served to stimulate a great deal of discussion with the Governor and the Colorado Legislature, no legislative package was successfully adopted by the legislature. It is, therefore, necessary to extend the duration of the Transportation Panel and focus its work on the following items: coalition building; public education and awareness; statewide strategic transit and investment programs; and developing proposal options.

II. Membership

The membership of the Transportation Panel shall continue as set forth in Executive Order B 001 07.

III. Directives

- A. The Transportation Panel report made several recommendations regarding expanding the state's role and investment in transit and other critical investment programs. The Transportation Panel is directed to provide a more detailed description of what such an expanded investment would entail.
- B. In 2007, the Transportation Panel traveled the state taking input from local communities and various interest groups. With the completion of the report, the Transportation Panel should develop a plan for presenting and sharing the findings of their report with local communities, interest groups, organizations, stakeholders and any entity of interest and build a coalition of support for the recommendations.
- C. The Transportation Panel should work to help provide public education and awareness on the physical and financial condition and limitations of Colorado's transportation system. The Transportation Panel should work in cooperation with other public entities to provide factual information to the public.
- D. The Transportation Panel shall work with various stakeholders and legislative members to identify possible funding approaches to increase investment in transportation. This should include a review of options previously considered by the Transportation Panel and information generated in the 2008 legislative session.
- E. The Transportation Panel shall report on its work by December 1, 2008 and June 1, 2009.

IV. Directive

- A. The Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel is hereby continued without interruption; and
- B. This Executive Order shall supplement Executive Order B 001 07, Creating the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel, and supersede that Executive Order only to the extent it is inconsistent with this Executive Order.

V. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until June 30, 2009, at which time the Transportation Panel shall be dissolved.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this third day of
July, 2008.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor