



COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

For years, Colorado has been plagued by an aging infrastructure system that has failed to keep pace with our dynamic and growing economy. Governor Polis partnered Colorado legislators in making transformational investments that wouldn't just help our economy build back stronger after the impacts of the pandemic, but put Colorado on a path toward sustainable prosperity for generations to come. Governor Polis knows that more time spent in traffic means less time with your family, that more money lost to car repairs which could instead be invested in jumpstarting our local economies and saving people money. That's why we need a modern transportation system that can support the future Colorado deserves - and the landmark bipartisan legislation Governor Polis signed into law will pave the way for Colorado to get there.

Major Colorado Infrastructure Achievements include:

- **SB21-260 Sustainability of the Transportation System**: This legislation signed by Gov. Polis will reduce vehicle registration fees by \$11, and create a dynamic, 21st Century transportation system that will drive Colorado's economic comeback, establish a sustainable funding source to improve Colorado roads, invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and expand multi-modal and transit options to reduce congestion and improve air quality.
- Putting Colorado on track to **deliver the Polis administration's ten year capital plan** to fix Colorado's roads, bridges, and multimodal system. Colorado is already well underway towards delivering record fixes to rural roads and bridges as well as flagship projects like Floyd Hill, Vail Pass, backlogged repairs to the Eisenhower Tunnel, and key segments of I-25 that include both roads and rapid bus infrastructure. These projects will improve safety, reduce congestion as the state grows, and incorporate more transit options so consumers have choices. The funding from the federal package is expected to accelerate completion of our ten year plan by several years.
- **Making record investment in Colorado's transition to electric vehicles.** Colorado is already a leader on the electric vehicle transition, with a history of robust consumer incentives, large utility investments in EV charging infrastructure, and having been the first state in the nation to adopt zero emission vehicle standards with support from associations representing 99% of auto manufacturers. EV sales in Colorado are growing rapidly, with recent monthly sales close to triple pre COVID levels. Senate Bill 260 built on this progress by investing three quarters of a billion dollars in strengthening our EV infrastructure and accelerating fleet transition in an equitable way. Governor Polis has also proposed investing \$150 million in next year's budget to convert to electric school buses, and \$12 million for rebates for electric bicycles.
- **Establishing a first-its-kind enterprise fund specifically to advance clean transportation options and clean air in areas where Coloradans suffer from the most severe air pollution in the state.** This fund, focused on areas designated as being out of attainment with the Clean Air Act, is a significant step towards recognizing

the disproportionate impacts of pollution in parts of Colorado's front range, and taking action to improve equity and environmental justice.

- **Strengthening multimodal and transit options for state and local partners.** *Senate Bill 260* invests hundreds of millions of dollars in a multimodal and mitigation options fund that provides flexible dollars to local partners to expand choice for transit and active transportation, as well as dollars for statewide investments such as the state augments multimodal options like expanding bus rapid transit across the state system.
- **Expanding Colorado's successful "Revitalizing Main Streets" program, which has already supported more than 100 communities all across Colorado.** This oversubscribed program has helped local partners on every corner of the state to implement innovative enhancements that make their downtowns safe and economically vibrant for active transportation— these range from helping businesses utilize outdoor space for safe commerce during COVID, to strengthening pedestrian and transit connections, to improving lighting in downtown areas. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act creates several programs that mirror Colorado's leadership in supporting these kinds of investments.
- **Tasking the state to advance a first in the nation effort to establish pollution reduction planning standards for transportation infrastructure.** *Senate Bill 260* called for new standards to ensure that we consider how government infrastructure planning choices impact the options available to consumers. This policy requires transportation plans to show that they will reduce greenhouse gas pollution, which will push government to provide more sustainable options like better transit, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes when we plan major infrastructure projects.
- **Creating important institutional changes to strengthen clean transportation, equity, and our supply chain.** The bipartisan *Senate Bill 260* establishes a series of new enterprise boards focused on clean transportation, as well as two new branches at the Colorado Department of Transportation focused on equity and freight policy. And other legislation passed in 2021 starts the process for collecting information, and then setting standards, to reduce the embodied carbon in construction materials used in transportation projects.

The January 3rd supplemental budget package builds upon Governor Polis's budget priorities, including saving people money by reducing fees and costs, record investment in our schools, making it free to start a business in Colorado, enhancing public safety, and improving air quality, while maintaining a balanced budget with strong reserves. **Including:**

Expanding Fee Relief for Vehicle Owners - Building on the November 1 package of \$104M in requested fee relief for businesses and individuals, the Governor proposes to use \$63M General Fund to provide fee relief for vehicle owners. The request is to delay the road usage fee included in S.B. 21-260 Sustainability of the Transportation System, as well as to extend the temporary reduction of a vehicle registration fee (Road Safety Surcharge) included in S.B. 21-260 through December 2023 saving every Colorado vehicle owner \$11.10 on their annual vehicle registration, putting money back in people's pockets during the state's economic recovery.

Securing Funds for Infrastructure Improvement - The bipartisan federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides a rare opportunity to advance Colorado's competitiveness by improving our infrastructure for roads, broadband, water, and other areas. OSPB estimates that the state's share of funding from the bill could double if the state is successful with grant applications, many of which require a state match. The Governor proposes that \$100 million be appropriated for matching funds for this bill to attract more federal funds to Colorado.