

## Transit Guiding Principles

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### INTRODUCTION

Over the years, CDOT has developed over 200 policies and procedures that, among other things, guide the management, construction and maintenance of public highways and other transportation systems in the state. Policies can be developed around specific activities, such as rockfall management and snow removal or they can reflect broader programs or processes, such as accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians, and guidance on the regional and statewide transportation planning process. CDOT's Vision and Mission are both institutionalized in policy and are presented below.

#### CDOT's Vision:

*To enhance the quality of life and the environment of the citizens of Colorado by creating an integrated transportation system that focuses on safely moving people and goods by offering convenient linkages among modal choices.*

#### CDOT's Mission:

*To provide the best multi-modal transportation system for Colorado that most effectively and safely moves people, goods, and information.*

As part of the development of the next long-range Statewide Transportation Plan, CDOT staff is reviewing and updating policies related to the planning process. In general, existing policy provides broad-based principles that guide CDOT in implementing its mission and provides direction for development of the long-range statewide multimodal transportation plan. These are general in nature and do not provide specific policy or guidance for any particular mode.

The Division of Transit and Rail, with responsibility for the planning, development, operation and integration of transit and rail into the statewide transportation system, is looking to develop guiding principles that are more specific to the role of transit in the overall statewide multimodal transportation system. The Division is in the early stages of developing CDOT's first Statewide Transit Plan consistent with state law, which will be a key component of the long-range Statewide Transportation Plan, also currently under development.

To guide development of the Statewide Transit Plan, DTR, in partnership with the TRAC, is proposing the following Transit Guiding Principles. These Principles are consistent with CDOT's broader operating principles, performance areas, and state and federal planning regulations. They represent the transit element of the statewide transportation system and support CDOT's Vision and Mission.

For purposes of this document, transit is defined as a shared passenger transportation service which is available for use by the general public, as distinct from modes such as taxis, carpools, limousines or other services by private arrangement. General public transit runs either on a fixed schedule and route with predetermined stops, at scheduled intervals (headways) or as a demand-response service in which riders request a ride in advance. Transit modes include buses, trolleys,

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trains, personal rapid transit, and trams. Types of transit include light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, passenger rail (intercity, high speed), advanced guideway systems, metros, subways, undergrounds, vanpools, bus rapid transit, commuter bus, intercity bus, and regional bus.

### TRANSIT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- When planning and designing for system enhancement and expansion, CDOT will consider all modes of personal transportation. CDOT will facilitate increased modal options and interface to facilities for all transportation system users.
- CDOT will consider the role of transit in expanding system capacity and extending the useful life of existing transportation facilities, networks and right-of-way.
- CDOT will promote system connectivity and transit mobility by linking networks of local, regional and interstate transportation services.
- CDOT will work towards integrating transit to support economic growth and development in manner that ensure the state's economic vitality. CDOT will ensure transit investments support economic goals in an environmentally responsible manner.
- CDOT will establish collaborative partnerships with local agencies, transit providers, the private sector and other stakeholders to meet the state's transit needs through open and transparent processes.
- CDOT will advocate for state and federal support of transit in Colorado including a dedicated, stable and reliable funding source for transit. Through partnerships, CDOT will leverage the limited transit funds available and seek new dollars for transit in Colorado.

**Comment [TSM1]:** This one I think could be made more specific to transit.