

# MEMORANDUM

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**TO:** Transit Commission

**FROM:** Mark Imhoff, Director, Division of Transit & Rail

**DATE:** February 3, 2012

**RE:** Consent agenda action item re FASTER project lists

The purpose of this memo is to outline the consent agenda item requesting Commission approval of a list of projects recommended for award from FY2013 FASTER Transit funding.

**BACKGROUND** – Colorado’s FASTER legislation provides \$15 million annually for transit projects. Of this \$15 million, \$5M per year is dedicated to local transit grants and \$10M is dedicated to statewide and regional multimodal, transit-related projects. The \$5M Local pool is allocated by formula to the six Engineering Regions for selection and award. DTR, with assistance from DTD and the Office of Policy and Government Relations, selects the projects for award from the \$10M Statewide pool. \$1M from the Statewide pool is being requested for Division administration, planning and match for federal grants.

**RECOMMENDED PROJECTS** – Late in 2011 DTR issued a broad Call for Projects for FY 2013 FASTER Transit funds. The specific criteria used to evaluate projects are unique to the type of project being requested but in general they include readiness to proceed, the age of equipment proposed to be replaced, the criticality of the project, agency financial capacity and need, and anticipated project impacts. Because of the state of the economy and a backlog of “state of good repair” needs, a “fix it first” approach was emphasized—that is, replacing or repairing buses and facilities was a higher priority than expansion projects.

We received applications for 78 projects requesting nearly \$36 M. We are recommending \$14M for 49 projects. In your packet are two lists—Table A contains the recommended Statewide pool awards and Table B contains the recommended Local pool awards. A resolution is also part of the packet.

The Transit and Intermodal Committee, which reviewed the lists last month, suggested that DTR provide the Commissioners a summary of the primary factors for why individual projects were not selected, so that Commissioners could be better prepared if questioned. These factors are presented in Table C, which is an informational item, not an item requiring action or approval. We believe this Table C provides a high degree of transparency to our process.