

**Get to Know
Denver Mayor
Michael Hancock**



Michael Hancock was recently elected as the 44th Mayor of Denver. Born near Fort Hood, Texas, Michael's family moved to Denver when he was young. After graduating from Denver's Manual High School he went on to attend Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska. On summer breaks Michael worked in the Denver Mayor's office. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a Minor in Communications. He also holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado-Denver.

Early in his career Michael worked for the Denver Housing Authority and the National Civic League. He then moved to the Urban League of Metro Denver. In 2003 voters in northeast Denver Council District 11 elected him to serve on City Council. His peers later chose him to serve two terms as council President in 2006-08. Michael recently led a coalition of business, civic and neighborhood groups in a highway clean up with the Colorado Department of Transportation along I-70. He has also been involved with issues involving Denver International Airport.

Michael and his wife Mary first met in middle school and now live in NE Denver, they are the proud parents of three children.

End of Session

The 68th General Assembly wrapped up their 2011 legislative session last month. While CDOT did not work an active agenda this year, many transportation related issues did come up including several attempts to repeal portions of SB09-108 FASTER (Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery), all of which were defeated.

While the state's budget situation continued to be a major challenge for the House and Senate as well as the powerful Joint Budget Committee (JBC), re-districting along with efforts to stimulate the state's economy also were hot topics. Roughly 597 bills were introduced this year but with the balance of power split between the chambers, only 336 largely bi-partisan supported measures made it to the Governors desk.

CDOT was successful in passing legislation (SB 11-227), to close a loophole created in child safety seat legislation from last year (SB10-110) that disqualified Colorado from receiving much needed federal safety dollars.

This session also brought about the confirmation of CDOT's new Executive Director Don Hunt as well the re-appointment of Aeronautics Board members Dale Hancock (Western Slope Representative) and Debra Wilcox (At-Large Representative).

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues, please feel free to contact CDOT's Legislative Liaison, Melissa Nelson-Osse, at 303-757-9703.

TIGER III

As a part of the FY11 Transportation Appropriations bill, Congress appropriated approximately \$600 million for a TIGER III Discretionary Program, which is just 12 percent lower than the \$600 million allocated in the TIGER II program last year. Like TIGER II, applicants will have to provide at least 20 percent of the funding, with no more than 80 percent of dollars coming from the program. While the U.S. Department of Transportation has not released the full details, CODT is expecting an announcement prior to July 1st.

Contact Colorado Department of Transportation Federal Liaison, Mickey Ferrell, at 303-757-9703 for more info on TIGER or other Federal transportation issues.

Discretionary Grants

As a part of the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY 11) Transportation Appropriations bill, Congress choose not to ‘earmark’ projects. After allocating the FY 11 funding, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced 11 federal funding programs that contained ‘extra’ federal funds (these are funds above the formula allocations) and requested that states submit applications through a national discretionary process. The Colorado Transportation Commission approved the following projects for submission to the U.S. Department of Transportation. An announcemet of approved projects is expected later this summer.

Region 1

Public Lands Highway (PLH) - US 40: Berthoud Pass – Removal of Beetle-killed Trees within the U.S.Highway ROW

Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) - I-70 Mountain Corridor: Twin Tunnels Environmental Assessment - Idaho Springs to Floyd Hill Section

Region 2

Innovative Bridge Research - 3 Bridges Project (SH 266 and SH 71)

Region 3

Public Lands Highway (PLH) - SH 139 - Little Horse South

Interstate Maintenance (IM) - Interstate 70 Dotsero Truck Parking Improvements

Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) - I-70 Mountain Corridor: Truck Chain-up/Chain-down Stations Lighting & Signage – Phase III (Region 1 and Region 3)

Region 4

Interstate Maintenance (IM) - Interstate 25 Crossroads to Harmony

Region 5

Public Lands Highway (PLH) - US 160 Mesa Verde National Park Interchange

Public Lands Highway (PLH) - US 160 Four Corners

Region 6

Interstate Maintenance (IM) - Interstate 225 Widening from Mississippi to Parker

Highway for Life (HFL) I-70 Pecos Bridge

Upcoming Events

Texas Transportation Intitute: Symposium on Mileage

Based User Fees

June, 13-14, 2011

Great Divide Lodge in Breckenridge, CO

Website: TTI.TAMU.edu

Colorado Transportation Commission Meetings

June, 16-17, 2011

CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

E-Mail: Toni.Kelly@dot.state.co.us

CMLAnnual Meeting

June 21-24, 2011

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort in Vail, CO

Phone: 303-831-6411

Bike to Work Day

June 22, 2011

Website: www.biketowork2011.org

Independence Day

July 4, 2011

CDOT Offices Closed

WASHTO Annual Meeting

July 17-20, 2011

Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK

Website: www.WASHTO.org

National Conference of State Legislatures-Annual Summit

August 8-11, 2011

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, TX

Website: www.NCSL.org

American Public Works Assoc.-Intl. Pubilc Works Congress

September 18-21, 2011

Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO

Website: www.APWP.net