

**Get to Know  
Jack Morgan  
Mayor of Idaho Springs**



Jack Morgan had his first opportunity to live in Colorado at the invitation of the United States Air Force. Following his service in the U.S. armed forces, he spent four decades in the consumer electronics industry where he had the opportunity to see many parts of the world. Following his career in the electronics industry Jack ran for, and was elected, Mayor of the city of Idaho Springs in the fall of 2009.

In his role as Mayor, Jack has been an active participant in the I-70 discussions, particularly the upcoming reconfiguration of the Twin Tunnels just east of his city. Jack views this as one of the major tasks facing state and local officials in Colorado, because of the impact on the people and economy of the state.

Jack has lived in Idaho Springs since 1986.

**Authorization News**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Senate passed the Transportation Reauthorization (MAP21 or S-1813) by an overwhelming (74-22) margin. Both Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and Mark Udall voted in favor of the legislation. The \$109 billion, two-year bill includes a number of improvements to transportation policy including consolidating highway programs from 90 to fewer than 30 and increasing the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program from \$122 million/year to \$1 billion/year. Nearly 30 amendments were considered in conjunction with the legislation. Of particular importance, all amendments that would have substantially decreased the gas tax and/or otherwise significantly reduced transportation spending were voted down. In addition, two tolling amendments: one that would have expanded tolling and another that would have eliminating tolling—were both withdrawn. *cont on page 2.....*



*Russell Senate Office Building*

**Halfway Point**

As the General Assembly reaches the half-way point of the statutorily mandated 120 day session. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is currently monitoring 81 bills of the 523 that have been introduced to date.

Here is an update on CDOT sponsored legislation: **HB 12-1012 (Williams A./Guzman)**. The CDOT Business Relocation Reimbursement bill which looks to amend CDOT policy regarding treatment of businesses relocations to allow CDOT to “make whole” more business owners incurring business-related losses due to a taking. The bill brings Colorado in line with a number of other states having statutory caps of \$30,000 to \$70,000. This measure has cleared the House of Representatives, receiving unanimous approval. The bill is now in the Senate and has been passed by the Senate Transportation Committee. **HB12-1222 (Becker/Hodge)** The recreation of the CDOT Renovation Fund bill allows CDOT to spend \$1.6 million in a frozen Certificate of Participation (COP) proceeds. The bill passed the House on Third Reading in early March and after its hearing in Senate Appropriations was referred to the consent calendar in the Senate for 2nd Reading. *cont on page 2.....*

## Halfway Point *cont from page 1.....*

**House Bill 12-1108 (Kagan, Scheffel).** This bill expands CDOT's authority to place Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs (TODs) and advertising for dining establishments, fuel stations, lodging, etc. on the large blue signs (known as LOGOs) in urbanized areas on the interstate system and also including signs on major secondary federal highways such as U.S. 6, U.S. 36, U.S. 24, and U.S. 50. Will have its first hearing March 22 in House Transportation.

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please feel free to contact Kurt Morrison, Legislative Liaison at 303-757-9703. This memo and a link to the bill tracking chart are available online at: <http://statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=16253&pk=251&style=pinstripe>

## Commission Road Trip

The Transportation Commission held a road trip recently visiting the Pikes Peak Region in mid-February. The trip included project site visits and meetings with local officials from El Paso, Teller and Douglas Counties. As part of the event The Transportation Commission and the Colorado Bridge Enterprise Board of Directors held their regular meetings at the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments building in Colorado Springs where a large number of citizens were able to participate in the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The trip was seen by all as one good step towards improving relations between the local governments in the area, and the Transportation Commission as well as with CDOT staff.

## Reauthorization *cont from page 1.....*

The House path to a reauthorization is still very unclear. While House leadership would ideally like to push forward their own bill, there have been significant disagreements within the Chamber about the bill term, funding sources, and whether or not to abolish the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. The House is currently in recess but Members will return to Washington on March 19 to determine how to move forward. Should the House ultimately be unable to come up with its own version of a transportation authorization, it is likely that they will bring up the Senate bill or something very similar to it.

That being said, the current SAFETEA-LU authorization and the associated federal gas tax authority will expire on March 31, 2012 and it is extremely unlikely that final approval of a long-term reauthorization, which would include House passage, bill conference, and a Presidential signature, would occur before that deadline. What's more, the House returns next week to an incredibly busy schedule and it is rumored that they will address health care and budget legislation prior to seeking progress on a multi-year transportation bill. This sets up the probability of a short-term (one or two month) noncontroversial extension of the current authorization, which will provide lawmakers with additional time to move long-term legislation forward. If lawmakers are still unable to resolve their differences and pass a reauthorization within the next few months, it is likely that SAFETEA-LU will be extended until after the elections into January.

CDOT is monitoring the situation and is actively engaged with the Colorado Congressional delegation as this situation develops. Stay tuned to *Interchange* for more details next month.

### Upcoming Events

#### Colorado Transportation Commission Workshops/Meeting

March 21-22, 2012

CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

E-Mail: [Toni.Bircher@dot.state.co.us](mailto:Toni.Bircher@dot.state.co.us)

#### Club 20 Spring Meeting

March 30-31, 2012

Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Jct, CO

Website: <http://www.club20.org/>

#### Colorado Transportation Commission Workshops/Meeting

April 18-19, 2012

CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

E-Mail: [Toni.Bircher@dot.state.co.us](mailto:Toni.Bircher@dot.state.co.us)

#### Colorado Municipal League-Newly Elected Officials Workshop

June 19-22, 2012

Beaver Run resort in Breckenridge, CO

E-Mail: [kharrison@cml.org](mailto:kharrison@cml.org)