



## Federal Reauthorization Deadline Approaching

As we reported last month, Congress passed yet another federal Authorization Extension for the highway and transit programs in late May. That current authorization extension authorizes federal expenditures from the highway and transit trust funds through July 31 of this month.

As this new deadline approaches, Congress is struggling to identify how to transfer as much as \$8 billion dollars of additional funding needed to maintain the current funding levels through the end of the calendar year (Congress could transfer as little as \$4 billion to maintain funding levels however the trust funds would have a zero balance at the end of the calendar year heading into the Presidential Primaries). Congress must take action prior to July 31st.

As always stay tuned to *Interchange* for the latest updates on the federal funding situation. If you have any questions on federal transportation issues feel free to contact Herman Stockinger, CDOT's Director of Policy & Government Relations at (303) 757-9077.

## Director Bhatt Testifies before Congress

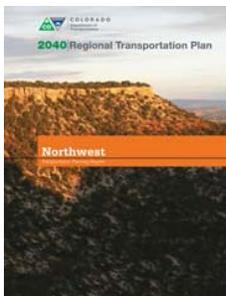
On June 25th, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Executive Director Shailen Bhatt was invited to Washington D.C. to testify before the full U.S. Senate Finance Committee on the second of two full committee hearings regarding the highway and transit trust funds. During the hearing titled: "*Unlocking the Private Sector: State Innovations in Financing Transportation Infrastructure*", Director Bhatt testified how critical federal transportation funding is to Colorado. He highlighted that two out of three dollars we use in construction come from the federal government, underscoring how heavily reliant Colorado is on federal funding. The Executive Director also highlighted the many successful Public/Public and



Shailen Bhatt in D.C.

Public/Private Partnerships CDOT has entered into over the past several years to help speed transportation projects to the public. The hearing also included testimony from: The Honorable Mitch Daniels (President Purdue University); The Honorable Shailen Bhatt (Executive Director CDOT); Mr. David Narefsky (Partner Infrastructure Practice Group); Mr. Baruch Feigenbaum (Reason Foundation).

A link to the full hearing can be found at <http://www.senate.gov/committees/finance>



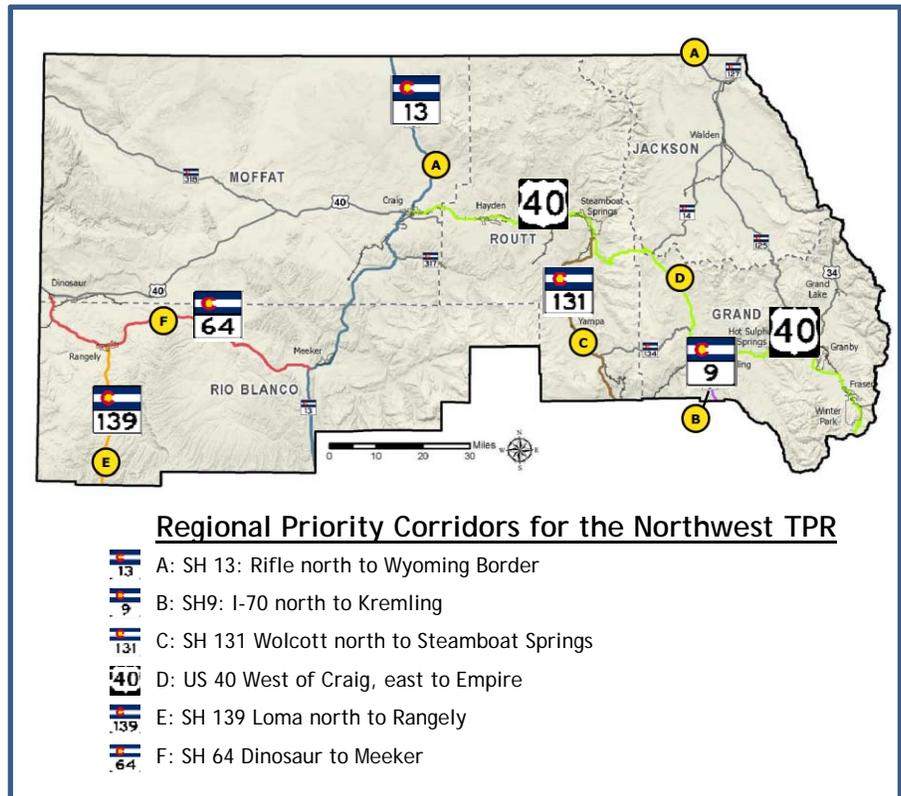
Cover of NW TPR Plan

## NorthwestTPR

The Northwest Transportation Planning region will be our focus in July as part of our ongoing series taking a closer look at all of the components of the Statewide plan. The Northwest (TPR) is made up of Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties and comprises mountainous terrain and river valleys with agricultural land. With limited options for traffic diversions when winter time closures cause travel and connectivity issues. Recreation/tourism, oil and gas, and an increasing aging demographic all contribute to the transportation needs of the region. ....cont. on page 2

## NW TPR .....cont. from page 1

This TPR emphasizes planning for transportation corridors. This approach is called corridor-based planning which connects the long-term vision of a corridor with goals, solutions, and strategies that the TPR has identified in order to get to their vision. The corridors that were selected by the members of the TPR were selected based on their standing as having a high level of importance to the transportation system in the region or the need for near-term improvements. Throughout the entire corridor prioritization process, the Northwest TPR confirmed the basis for the establishment of underlining the importance of the regional corridors with state officials, the public, and decision makers. This confirmation with other stakeholders helps underscore the message the planning region communicates with its priorities for the dedication of resources by the Colorado Transportation Commission.



The full Statewide Transportation Plan can be found at [www.ColoradoTransportationMatters.com](http://www.ColoradoTransportationMatters.com). To locate all the regional plans click the Regional Transportation Plans tab.

## Projects

Two major projects have recently been celebrated by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and our partners. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a celebration was held to mark the completion of Phase 1 of the US 36 Express Lanes Project along with the Regional Transportation District (RTD), the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE), the US Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), together with elected officials and many crucial stakeholders. The ceremony marked the end of major construction impacts and the beginning of multi-modal choices on the newly reconstructed highway that will eventually connect Westminster to Boulder.

Meanwhile, The first project to reconstruct Interstate 25 through Pueblo held a groundbreaking ceremony on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dignitaries with CDOT, FHWA, the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County Flatiron Constructors and the engineering firm HDR broke ground on the reconstruction of I-25 between City Center Drive (1st Street) and Illex Street. The project also includes upgrading a number of bridges south of downtown. "I-25 through the heart of Pueblo is one of the oldest segments of freeway we have in the state so this reconstruction is long overdue. It has not seen any upgrades to modernize it since it was originally built in the 1950s." said CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt.

Information regarding CDOT projects statewide is available at [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org), on the the CDOT Mobile app or by calling 511. Information about weekly lane closures also is available at [www.coloradodot.info/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html](http://www.coloradodot.info/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html).