



228 Funding

Budget discussions at the General Assembly the last week of March highlighted the complexity of the ongoing conversation about how to provide certainty in funding transportation in the Colorado legislature. In 2009 the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 09-228 this bill repealed transportation funding measures known as Senate Bill 97-1 "diversions" and House Bill 02-1310 "transfers", and established alternative transfers from the General Fund (subject to triggers) to transportation, Capital Construction Fund (CCF), and the General Fund statutory reserve.

SB 09-228 required transfers from the General Fund to the HUTF and CCF if certain conditions were met. The transfers were required in the five years following the calendar year that Colorado personal income grew by 5.0 percent. Colorado personal income grew 6.2 percent in 2014 triggering the first transfers in FY 2015-16.

Under current law, the size of Senate Bill 09-228 transfers are partially determined by the size of the TABOR (Tax Payer Bill of Rights) refund as a percent of General Fund revenue collections. On the recommendation of the Joint Budget Committee, House Bill 16-1416 titled State Infrastructure General Fund Transfers was introduced. This bill replaces the SB 09-228 transfers from the General Fund to the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) and the Capital Construction Fund (CCF) with actual dollar amounts. The measure ensures a full transfer of SB 09-228 funds (\$199.2M) for this fiscal year to the HUTF, and a 75% transfer (\$158M) for the following fiscal year. The remaining three years stay the same with the TABOR triggers and forecast requirements for SB09-228 in place. The bill would send the CCF \$49.8M in FY 2015-16 and \$52.7 million in FY 2016-17.



Colorado Senate Chamber

As we enter the month of April the Senate will take up budget and related spending bills. Check back next month as Interchange brings you an update on the ongoing challenges of transportation funding in Colorado. For the latest weekly CDOT Legislative memo visit our website by clicking [here](#) or contact Andy Karsian, CDOT's Legislative Liaison at (303) 757-9703.

Driven to Distraction

It only takes a second to be distracted enough for a driver to cause an accident on the road. Last year alone an estimated 15,307 distracted driving crashes occurred in Colorado, a number that has grown by 16 percent in the last four years. More than 50 percent of Colorado's distracted driving crashes from 2012 to 2015 occurred in Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe and Adams counties.

With these troubling statistics in mind, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Colorado State Patrol (CSP) are joining a national effort in recognizing April as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month by declaring distracted driving a significant threat to traffic safety in Colorado.

...continued on page 2

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In conjunction with National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, CDOT is partnering with CSP to conduct a high-visibility distracted driving enforcement period. Beginning Friday, April 8, and running through Sunday, April 10, state troopers will increase patrols, specifically looking for drivers who are distracted.

CDOT is asking Facebook users to submit their own anti-distracted driving messages for possible use on highway message signs throughout the state. The winning messages may be displayed on highway signs in April. This summer, CDOT will launch a statewide, high-visibility awareness campaign to decrease distracted driving. For more information about distracted driving in Colorado, visit codot.gov/safety/distracteddriving.

Express Yourself

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) celebrated the end of construction of the North I-25 Express Lanes with a ribbon-cutting ceremony near 104th Avenue on April 4th. The ceremony commemorated the local, state and federal collaboration that went into the construction and delivery of the North I-25 Express Lanes between US 36 and 120th Avenue. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Administrator Gregory Nadeau, Senator Cory Gardner and Congressman Ed Perlmutter joined local elected officials -- Adams County Commissioner Steve O'Dorisio and Thornton Mayor Heidi Williams and representatives from CDOT and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) in the celebration.



The North I-25 Express Lanes is just one of the operational improvements that CDOT and the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) have opened recently in Colorado. Since last summer, CDOT

"Express Lanes can deliver more consistent, faster speeds and reduced travel times for all corridor users, including the general purpose lanes. Since testing began earlier this month, commuters are already noticing positive changes in traffic congestion, as travel times for this critical corridor have been reduced."

Shailen Bhatt, CDOT Executive Director at I-25 North Ribbon Cutting

opened Express Lanes to provide reliable travel times on US 36, the I-70 Mountain corridor and on North I-25. Express Lanes offers travelers choices such as biking, carpooling, transit and toll-paying options.

About Express Lanes: Express Lanes increase roadway capacity and help to manage congestion on the highways. The use of toll pricing during peak travel times reduces delays, manages congestion and maintains reliable travel times. For more information, visit expresslanes.codot.gov. To get an Express-Toll account and pass, [visit www.expresstoll.com](http://www.expresstoll.com).

About the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE): The HPTE operates as a government-owned, independent business within CDOT. It searches out innovative ways to finance projects to help Colorado fulfill its commitment to increase travel choices through options that include Express Lanes, transit, biking, walking and carpooling. For more information, visit www.coloradohpte.com.