



Federal Budget

Congress has passed a new budget that includes \$7.8 billion in new money for transportation with the passage of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018. The House and Senate passed the measure 1 day before a stopgap appropriations bill was set to expire on March 23rd. The stopgap had held most federal programs at 2017 spending levels. President Trump had threatened to veto the measure, which would have triggered a shutdown of the government but later signed the measure into law averting the shutdown and has ensured the Colorado Department Of Transportation will have timely re-imbursements from the Federal Highway Administration.

The 2018 spending bill, provides higher full-year funding levels than were part of the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), for highway and transit, rail and transportation grant programs.

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Work Zone Safety

Each year in the spring, National Work Zone Awareness Week is held to bring attention to safety in work zones. This year the week will be celebrated April 9 -13. The Colorado Department Of Transportation joins Departments Of Transportation across the country supporting the awareness message and hosting events to honor those lost.

In 2017, there were 15 work zone fatalities in Colorado. This was more than double the deaths that occurred over the past several years. These fatalities included workers from the private sector who work in road construction zones. (No CDOT employees were killed in 2017.)

CDOT hosts a Remembrance Day in each of CDOT's 5 regions around the state to remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty. CDOT has lost a total of 60 lives in work zone areas since 1929, with the most recent fatality happening earlier this year, when Nolan Olson was killed while filling potholes in Pagosa Springs.

To view information about CDOT's Remembrance Day visit the webpage: <https://www.codot.gov/about/employee-memorial/in-memory>.

April 9 -13, 2018

NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

ROAD WORK AHEAD

2018 WORK ZONE SAFETY: EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

AASHTO | ADG of America | ATSSA | VDOT | WorkSmart | alliance | NHTSA

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There will be a \$1 billion increase - to \$1.5 billion - for the USDOT's TIGER grants, \$800 million more in transit formula funding and a \$232 million increase to \$2.6 billion for transit construction grants that the President had threatened to end. The bill also allocates \$1.95 billion for the Amtrak national passenger rail system, and a \$446.6 million increase to \$888 million for rail infrastructure and safety grants.

Lawmakers extended aviation programs another six months through September 30th. They provided \$1.6 billion more funding than last year, including airport improvement program grants with an additional \$1 billion and an increase to the contract towers program that ensures all existing towers in the program will be fully funded. Congress also continued funding the Federal Aviation Administration's "essential air" program at \$155 million, up from \$150 million last year, for subsidies for commercial air service to small and rural communities.

The bill also includes provisions for:

- \$100 million through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for an automated vehicle research/development program.
- The repurposing of unused past earmark funding to new projects, and does not rescind any unused highway project contract authority as lawmakers have done previously to offset spending.

For more information on Federal transportation funding contact Herman Stockinger, CDOT Deputy Director and Director of the Office of Policy & Government Relations at 303-757-9077.

TIGER Grants

The U.S. Department Of Transportation TIGER Discretionary Grant program made two awards that positively impact Colorado.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Passing Lane Project, applied for by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, for \$2,000,000 upgrades a 2.5-mile rural portion of U.S. Highway 160 by adding approximately 6,000 feet of passing lanes in each direction, three new box culverts, signage, guardrails, widened shoulders, and access improvements.

The Southwest Chief Route Stabilization Project, applied for by Colfax County, New Mexico, for \$16,000,000 replaces 60-year old bolted rail, associated turnouts and crossings for a net gain of 42 miles of Class 4 rail in the La Junta subdivision between Hutchinson, KS, and Las Animas, CO.

For more information on TIGER Grants contact Aaron Greco, CDOT Local Liaison at 303-757-9755.

