



Senate Bill 18-001 Signed

It has been less than a month since the dramatic finish to the 71st General Assembly, and the buzz around the final days of the session continues. As the clock wound down on the 120-day session, the legislature tackled policy issues such as education funding, PERA, marijuana regulations, and, of course, transportation funding. Transportation advocates continue to cheer the bipartisan Senate Bill 18-001 (SB-1) which passed at the end of the assembly.



Governor Hickenlooper signs SB-1

SB-1 transfers \$495 million from the general fund to state and local transportation projects. State highways receive \$346.5 million and local governments \$25 million. An additional \$150 million will transfer in 2019, with the state receiving \$105 million and locals getting \$28.5 million. Both years also include a transfer to multi modal programs as well, with 85% of this funding going to local governments and 15% for state transit projects. SB-1 protects the first payment of SB-267 funding from last year (\$380 million), which in addition to the new transfers gives the state highway system a much needed infusion of funding.

The remainder of the bill details a complex scenario of outcomes stemming from possible ballot measures in the November, 2018 election. For more information about CDOT Legislative issues contact Andy Karsian, CDOT Legislative Liaison at Andy.Karsian@state.co.us.

INFRA Grants for I-25 and I-70

Colorado has been awarded \$90 million from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program by the U.S. Department of Transportation. El Paso County received \$65 million that will go toward improvements to the I-25 South Gap project in Douglas and El Paso counties. CDOT also received \$25 million that will help fund a shoulder Express Lane on Interstate 70 Westbound in Clear Creek County.

Construction on the I-25 Gap project is planned to begin in late spring or summer 2019. The \$25 million INFRA grant completes the \$80 million in funding needed to build the project.

The I-70 shoulder Express Lanes is on track to begin construction by late summer of this year. The \$65 million INFRA grant completes the \$350 million funding needed to build the project.

"Senators Bennet, Gardner and the rest of the Congressional Delegation stepped up to ensure that Colorado received awards for two critical transportation projects,"

*Mike Lewis,
Executive Director of CDOT*

For more information on INFRA Grants contact Aaron Greco, CDOT Local Liaison at Aaron.Greco@state.co.us

TIGER Gets New Stripes

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has dedicated nearly \$5.6 billion for nine rounds of National Infrastructure Investments Discretionary Grants to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact. The program previously known as TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) will now be known as the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the nation to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives.



On April 20, USDOT announced the application process for the BUILD Transportation Grants. BUILD is largely similar to previous TIGER grant rounds. Applications are due by July 19, 2018 and grant awards will be made by December 18, 2018. For this round of BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the FY 2018 Appropriations Act. At least 30 percent of funds awarded to projects located in rural areas.

“BUILD Transportation grants will help communities revitalize their surface transportation systems while also increasing support for rural areas to ensure that every region of our country benefits,” said USDOT Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

Projects for BUILD will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental protection, state of good repair, innovation, partnership, and additional non-Federal revenue for future transportation infrastructure investments.

To reflect the Administration’s Infrastructure Initiative, DOT intends to award a greater share of BUILD Transportation grant funding to projects located in rural areas that align well with the selection criteria than to such projects in urban areas. The notice highlights rural needs in several of the evaluation criteria, including support for rural broadband deployment where it is part of an eligible transportation project.



Increased emphasis on projects located in rural areas



\$1.5 billion ready for projects with a significant local or regional impact



Apply by July 19, 2018



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For more information on BUILD visit <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about> or for questions, please contact Herman Stockinger at herman.stockinger@state.co.us or Tim Kirby at timothy.kirby@state.co.us.