

RESOLUTION # TC -1929

Urging Congress to pass a full fiscal year 2011 authorization and appropriations extension

Whereas, the Colorado construction industry has experienced an unemployment rate of 19% over the last two years that is expected to continue through 2011; and

Whereas, Congress passed a transportation authorization extension through the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act though December 31, 2010; and

Whereas, the Transportation Commission adopted a fiscal year 2011 budget which anticipates federal highway revenues to Colorado of \$349.29 million; and

Whereas, 86.5% of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) projects will be fully constructed by next construction season, thus effectively ending the 'stimulus' bill for highway transportation in Colorado; and

Whereas, if Congress passes an extension of authorization and appropriations through a continuing resolution or omnibus appropriations bill, Colorado may see an increase in federal funds for fiscal year 2011; and

Whereas, Colorado would best be able to utilize additional federal funds to create jobs and improve Colorado's transportation infrastructure through a full year extension rather than multiple extensions throughout the year; and

Whereas, planning for and constructing transportation projects requires a stable long term funding source; and

Whereas, the Transportation Commission strongly opposes short-term authorization and appropriation extensions for the remaining portion of federal fiscal year 2011.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Commission urges Congress to pass a full fiscal year 2011 authorization and appropriations extension in the remaining portion of the 111th Congress to ensure new projects are able to be advertised for construction in the 2011 construction season which will prevent unnecessary added unemployment in Colorado.

