



# Policy Brief

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of Policy & Government Relations

4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Room 275

Denver, Colorado 80222

(303) 757-9772

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## RESPONSIBLE ACCELERATION OF MAINTENANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS (RAMP) STATUS UPDATE

### Summary

CDOT staff has completed the analysis of the submitted RAMP applications and has compiled a recommended program of projects for Transportation Commission discussion on September 17<sup>th</sup> with final approval scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>. CDOT received a total of 166 applications requesting more than \$1.54 billion, over 2 times the total funding available. The staff recommendation identifies \$630 million in partnership projects and \$66 million in operations projects. The staff recommended program of projects can be found at: <https://www.coloradodot.info/programs/RAMP>.

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### Background

In December, CDOT announced it was changing how it budgets and expends funds for transportation projects resulting in a \$300 million per year increase in project construction for five years. The primary Program areas are:

- *Asset Management and Operational Improvements (\$175 million per year)* - dedicated to slowing the deterioration and improving the safety of state's highways, bridges and tunnels.
- *Transportation Partnerships (\$125 Million per year)* - dedicated to leveraging state transportation dollars by creating Public Private Partnerships (P3s) with industry and Public-Public Partnerships with local government to provide improvements on corridors where partnership opportunities exist. This fund will provide an opportunity for local governments and CDOT to potentially move forward with projects that CDOT would not be able to fund alone.

### RAMP Evaluation Process

CDOT's evaluation process included independent review from the CDOT Regions as well as subject matter experts. During the review process, evaluators assessed the applications based on project value, operations/mobility, safety, costs, community support, local contribution, and other elements. CDOT also assessed projects based on the streams of funding available (federal, HUTF, etc.). This process is a significant element in determining the final list of eligible projects as there may be instances where the available and eligible fund pool may constrain the selection of preferred projects. In other words, the "best" projects may not always be the most fundable.

### Staff Recommended RAMP Partnership and Operations Program of Projects Overview

The staff recommendations identify \$630 million in partnership projects for a one-time RAMP allocation to be constructed in the next five years. The RAMP partnership program includes \$118 million in local contributions with the potential to leverage additional private funds extending the reach of RAMP funds. In summary, the 44 partnership project elements include:

- 238 Lane miles improved
- 89 Lane miles added
- 26 Lane miles transferred from state system
- 116 Shoulder Miles Improved/Added
- 13 Rehabilitated bridges
- 5 New wildlife passes
- 1 New pedestrian bridge
- 9 Reconstructed interchanges
- 4 "Main Street" highway projects
- 16 Transit/bicycle/pedestrian projects

Additionally, many of these projects will result in better safety conditions and reduce accidents (e.g. the proposed Pueblo I-25 project will reduce accidents by 65% in that area). Improved travel times are another outcome that will be seen from proposed projects for instance, the proposed interchange reconstruction at I-25 and Arapahoe will improve travel times up to 50% in some directions. The staff recommended program of projects also includes 31 operation projects totaling \$66 million aimed at optimizing safety and managing congestion. The Transportation Commission will discuss the staff recommended program of projects on September 18<sup>th</sup> with final approval on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Award of funds is dependent on completion of an agreement with CDOT outlining terms, budget and scope of project.

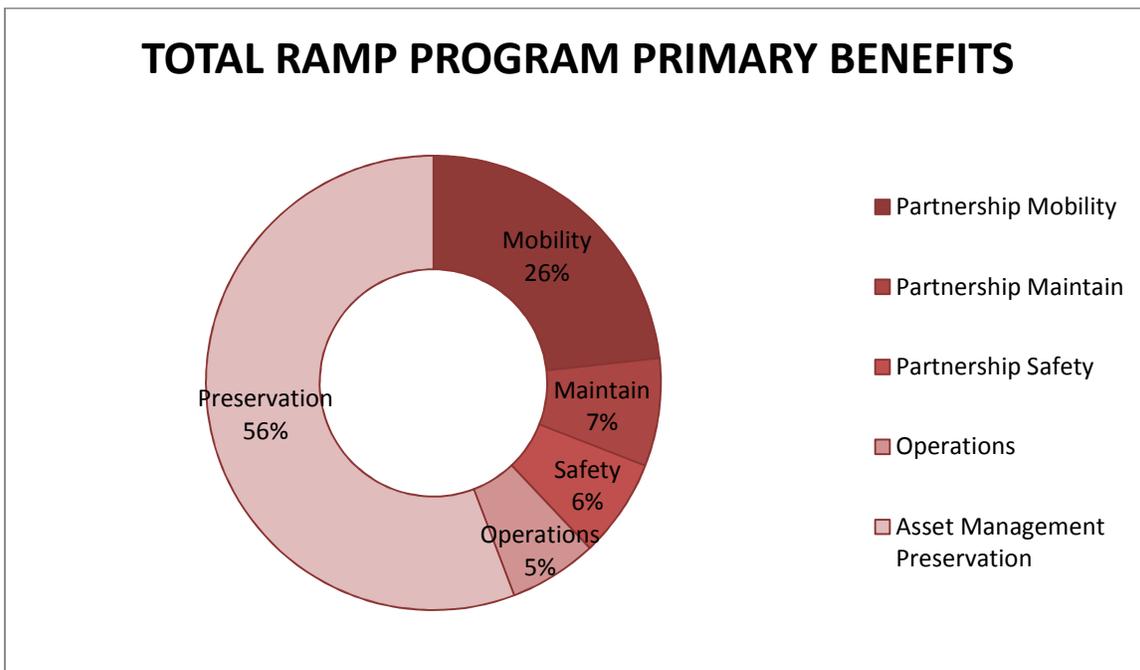
#### RAMP Asset Management Program Update

Starting in Fiscal Year 2014, CDOT increased funding to a variety of different annual and capital maintenance programs to stabilize the deterioration of the transportation system. RAMP impacts to the base asset management program include an additional:

- \$88 million in surface treatment/year to keep roads smooth and safe
- \$33 million/year in preventative bridge repair
- \$3.8 million/year additional for rock fall
- More than \$34 million/year for Intelligent Transportation Systems, tunnels, culverts and other assets

#### Total RAMP Program of Projects Summary

- \$800 million in statewide asset management projects to maintain and preserve the system
- \$630 million total in public public and public private partnerships to maintain, maximize safety and system operations and expand mobility statewide for five years, including approximately \$590 million in immediate projects and nearly \$40 million for the HPTE P3 development fund
- \$66 million in projects to maximize system operations, with \$9 million for future operational priorities



#### How to Get More Information

Please visit CDOT's RAMP webpage at <https://www.coloradodot.info/programs/RAMP> for additional program information. This and other Policy Briefs can be found at: <http://coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/new-publications/policy-briefs>.