

# A Way Forward | Safer Roads & Less Traffic

Business leaders and Coloradans call on the legislature to develop a bipartisan solution to ensure Colorado has safer roads and less traffic.

We all experience the frustration of wasting time sitting in traffic or the jolt of hitting potholes on our way to work.

We propose a bipartisan solution that addresses public demand for government accountability with the most transparent roads improvement plan to date.

## BACKGROUND | Colorado's Missed Opportunities...

**20%** of major urban roads and highways are in poor condition. A recent report by the Reason Foundation ranked the quality of Colorado's rural roads **47th nationwide**.

**33%** of greenhouse gases in Colorado come from the transportation sector, according to CDOT. When drivers sit idly in traffic, it only exacerbates the state's air quality problems.

Annual State Costs



**\$7.1 Billion**

In Denver Alone



**\$1.2 Billion**

Unsafe roads and out-of-control traffic cost Colorado drivers over **\$7.1 billion annually**, according to National Transportation Research Group. In Denver alone, the cost was **\$1.2 billion**, that equates to **\$2,300** per driver per year.

**72%** of Coloradans say traffic is a serious problem according to a bipartisan poll by Keating and Vitale.

Over the last 20 years, funding to improve the safety and expansion of our roads has been wholly inadequate to keep pace with state growth. It is estimated that the Colorado highway network was built for 3.5 million people. Colorado is now home to more than 5 million people.

Colorado in 2020



**5.8 Million People**

Colorado by 2050



**8.7 Million People**

Historically, the state has contributed significant revenue towards transportation projects, on top of the revenue collected through the gas tax. This practice stopped during the Great Recession and did not begin to return until more recently. There is broad agreement that great investment is needed to dig out of the hole and position our state to better meet the transportation needs of today and the future.

*Coloradans deserve better. Legislators have an opportunity to rise to the occasion.*

## A Way Forward

A Way Forward is a framework for solving this major public policy challenge, and the first of its kind because it avoids the “perfection or nothing” approach that has come to dominate the transportation policy discussion. The legislature can unite around a common sense proposal and deliver the road projects with the transparency and accountability that Coloradans expect.

A recent Cygnal survey found that 58.4% of Coloradans would support a bipartisan plan because it is a practical way for the government to serve the people of Colorado, even though they may disagree with parts of it, while only 22.2% disagree.

### CDOT'S 10-YEAR STATEWIDE ROAD

After meeting with Coloradans in all 64 counties, CDOT released a draft of its 10-year statewide plan which focuses on decreasing traffic and improving safety. This plan benefits every county in Colorado.

With this revolutionary plan, the legislature has a unique opportunity to find a solution during the 2021 legislative session. The recommendations from CDOT, and other leaders in the state, allows the legislature to prepare for the decade ahead. With this plan, the legislature can establish the funding course so the projects will materialize, and the traffic reduction and repair work can get underway to benefit Colorado families.



### HIGH LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY



*A high level of public oversight -- via a straightforward accountability website and additional transparency measures -- would build and foster public trust that the funds committed to the project will go to the highest priority roads.*

All Coloradans would be able to track project build outs. Making the website easy to follow is key to winning long-term public buy-in.



All money would be allocated for essential road repairs and reduced traffic delays.

**75%** of Coloradans polled support transparency and accountability measures that include publishing a list of projects, timetables, and costs for all to see, according to a Cygnal survey.

### 10-YEAR PROJECT SUNSET

*This 10-year project sunsets when the high-priority projects are complete.*



**60%** of Coloradans polled are more likely to support a proposal that had a strict 10-year timetable for implementation as well as all funding, and all projects would be completed and permanently sunset after 10 years, according to a Cygnal survey.

*It is necessary, it is time, it is possible. Join us in helping to solve a real need in Colorado.*