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Office of the County Commissioners

Roger Partridge, Commissioner District II

May 2, 2018

The Honorable State Representative Perry Buck
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Honorable Representative Buck:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this letter to you. My name is Roger Partridge, Douglas County Commissioner. As background, I am in my 6th year and represent Douglas County as the transportation lead to: Chairman of the I-25 GAP Coalition, Vice-Chair of the C-470 Coalition, Board of Directors to DRCOG, Board of Directors to E-470, and represent DRCOG to the State Transportation Advisory Committee of CDOT.

We, the Douglas County Commissioners, are in support of SB1 and also believe a dedicated, long-term Multi-modal Transportation funding mechanism should be strongly contemplated and seriously considered. All the while, as Commissioners we can fully appreciate the consideration and relevance of all the funding requests that come before the General Assembly as a whole. Also, as Commissioners we see the similarities to the Legislature's role of funding many different offices and departments. In comparison, counties as an arm of the State and by state statute are required to provide funding for a Road & Bridge department. Even though not quite apples-to-apples, one could conclude that CDOT and Multimodal Transportation funding is the General Assembly's Road & Bridge department. As we hear from the public, they are surprised to learn of the small amount of ongoing general State funding that is dedicated to transportation. No doubt there is much about the State budget that is not understood but this should be taken as a strong message.

I would also like to add that some say potholes are not political. Maybe not in the sense of R or D, but certainly we know potholes are in the political realm when deciding where and what to direct funding to as the multiple requests are made. I commend you as you tackle these challenges.

An important part to be aware of is what we learn from the transportation subject matter experts. The multiple components necessary to provide usable pavement on the ground includes, but is not limited to: purpose & need of a project; all the components of an Environmental Impact Study, to include congestion, safety, air quality, water quality & rights, wildlife, and alternative forms of travel. Additional components are drainage; erosion; lighting; guardrails; fencing; easements; right-of-way; bike lanes; law enforcement and emergency response; litigation; requests for proposals, department cost of labor and space; and of course, FUNDING!

As all of this puts pavement down and bridges over and under, this is what it takes to support a multimodal system for cars, semi-trucks, buses, but is even necessary in how we transport to and from school, work, home & play. Pavement and all the components that are necessary to provide for all forms of multimodal transportation, which is just as important as any utility of water, power, and communication. Pavement is the major backbone of all necessary infrastructure!

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Also of importance to note is that as all City, County and State agencies seek out Federal funding, the present federal administration has made it clear that the expectation is there for very strong local shares to be a funding partner. If we want to compete for Federal funding we have to be willing partners. This is how we recover the federal dollars our taxpayers contribute.

In conclusion, I strongly ask for your support of SB1 and also consider a dedicated, long-term funding mechanism for our State transportation infrastructure. I commend all of you for your time, effort and energy and will have you in great thoughts and thanks for the next seven days!

Sincerely,



Roger A. Partridge

cc: Honorable Representative Faith Winter
Honorable Representative Barbara McLachlan
Honorable Representative Jon Becker
Honorable Representative Jeff Bridges
Honorable Representative Terri Carver
Honorable Representative Daneya Esgar
Honorable Representative Joann Ginal
Honorable Representative Chris Hansen
Honorable Representative Dominique Jackson
Honorable Representative Polly Lawrence
Honorable Representative Kimmi Lewis
Honorable Representative Paul Lundeen
Honorable Representative Dylan Roberts
Honorable Representative Lori Saine