



Elected Officials Guide Now Available

Each year the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Office of Policy & Government Relations produces an *Elected Officials Guide to CDOT*. This guide is a helpful resource for local, state and federal elected officials. The guide provides information on a wide variety of CDOT functions and processes, from funding and planning to maintenance and safety. In light of the fiscal challenges facing all aspects of state government the guide will be available on-line. By offering a limited printing and publishing the guide electronically CDOT was able to save money and resources.

You can find the guide by visiting:

www.dot.state.co.us/GovernmentRelations/News%20and%20Publications.html

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The following is a memo presented to the STAC and then the Transportation Commissioners:

DATE: November 18, 2009
TO: Transportation Commission
FROM: Heather Copp, CFO
SUBJECT: Reconciliation and Allocation of Transportation Contingency Funds

The Transportation Commission has set aside funds to deal with various unforeseen circumstances. Currently there is approximately \$244 million that has not been allocated to programs. Of that, staff is recommending that the Transportation Commission keep \$118 million in reserve. Please see attached spreadsheet. The remaining balance that would be available to program is approximately \$126 million. The Transportation Commission will need to take into consideration that these are one time funds and the revenue picture for the rest of FY 10 and FY 11 is very uncertain at this time. We are currently under our second continuing resolution through December 18, 2009. The Federal trust fund is expected to run out of funds in December. In addition, in accordance with TC Resolution 1306 some if not all of these funds will need to be allocated utilizing the incremental formula. TC Resolution 1306 has been attached for your consideration.

The CDOT Executive Management has had many discussions about the best use of these funds. The Staff has identified the following options:

- \$20 million of the \$126 million is S.B. 97-001 funds. These funds need to be utilized on 7th Pot projects. I have attached a list that the Transportation Commission approved

in October of 2008 for use of 7th Pot projects. Most of this list was not funded due to the loss of S.B. 97-001 funds.

- Increase the surface treatment program by a minimum of \$32 million. This would bring the program in FY 10 to \$125 million. The \$125 million is a historical allocation to the surface treatment program.
- Restore funding to the FASTER Safety projects in the amount of \$8 million. The project list that the Transportation Commission approved last month was based on receipt of approximately \$79 million in FASTER funds. The current estimate is \$71 million. Some of the projects will need to be postponed or some of these funds could be used to fund the shortfall.
- Allocate additional funds above the \$20 million available in S.B. 97-001 funds to fund additional 7th pot projects. Would need to look at the impacts to the MOUs and regional allocations.
- Allocate funds to design projects in the event that additional funds are received through the federal authorization bill or some other source. There are several corridors that have received a FONSI or ROD and due to the loss of funding, design and construction work has not been able to proceed.

The STAC recommended the above with the exception of “**Restore \$8 Million to the FASTER Safety Projects**” which it did not support.

FASTER FUNDING

The Faster Legislation passed this is likely to be an item for discussion the next session in 2010. The difficulty in balancing the state budget may produce a number of bills challenging FASTER.

While the projects for Faster funding FY-10 are set, the Transportation Commission is having difficulty identifying the planning process for future projects That this funding will move forward. The STAC recommended that the Commission provide “GUIDING PRINCIPLES” to help the TPR’s and MPO’s work through the already established planning.

The FASTER revenues are lower than previously projected.
Bridge allocation went from \$50 million to \$45 million.
Highway safety allocation went from \$79 million to \$71 million.

FEDERAL FUNDING

The latest news about an new Federal Authorization is that Congress passed an extension to December 18, 2009 and they will need to pass another extension before Christmas. The length of that extension is unclear.