



February 6, 2017

Governor John Hickenlooper
 President of the Senate Kevin Grantham
 Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran
 Senate Minority Leader Lucia Guzman
 House Minority Leader Patrick Neville
 Colorado State Capitol
 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Governor, Mr. President, Madame Speaker, Madame Leader and Mr. Leader:

We agree with and applaud your opening day statements to your respective bodies and in your State of the State address that our transportation challenges threaten our economic competitiveness. We are also very **encouraged by the new openness to bi-partisan and bi-cameral conversations to find solutions.**

We greatly appreciate your focus on the growing crisis that faces our roads, bridges and overall transportation system. From safety concerns and delayed repairs to the need for significantly more capacity on a number of our key traffic arteries, **the status quo threatens the vibrancy of our economy**, our attractiveness as a destination for business and tourism and our quality of life.

Failure to address the challenge before us is no longer an option. The cost of projects will continue to rise, travel times will increase, and tourist and recreation destinations become less attractive. Doing nothing means the ability to engage in commerce becomes more challenging and economic opportunities will be lost as businesses choose to relocate to other states that invest in their infrastructure.

The people of Colorado understand this. According to polling, voters believe funding Colorado's roads should be a state funding priority. Moreover, 9 out of 10 voters believe Colorado's roads are in "desperate need of repair."¹

We strongly support your desire to make the repair and expansion of Colorado's roads, bridges and mobility options a priority again. We are prepared to work with you, to work across the party lines and the two floors of the Capitol to enact a pragmatic, balanced solution where we address the volatility of transportation funding and jumpstart critical transportation projects across the entire state of Colorado. **Together, we can enact a balanced solution that establishes a new long term, dedicated and sustainable source of funds, restores Colorado's commitment to transportation within our state budget, and reflects the expectations and preferences of voters.**

Your consensus surrounding our desperate transportation needs tells us that **we can achieve a landmark agreement this session.**

We stand with all of you in your efforts to **fix Colorado roads!** Let's work together to make 2017 the year we stopped talking about our transportation funding challenge and instead achieved a solution worthy of the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Chris Romer, President/CEO
Vail Valley Partnership

David May, President/CEO
Fort Collins Chamber

Dirk Draper, President/CEO
Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC

John Hall, Economic Development Director, City of Westminster
Chair of the Board
Economic Developers Council of Colorado

Diane Schwenke, President/CEO
Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce

Kevin Hougen, President/CEO
Aurora Chamber of Commerce

Kelly Brough, President/CEO
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Wasden, President
Colorado Business Roundtable

Rod Slyhoff, President/CEO
Pueblo Chamber of Commerce

Dennis Houston, President/CEO
Parker Area Chamber of Commerce

Nick Colglazier, Executive Director
Colorado Competitive Council

Sarah MacQuiddy, President/CEO
Greeley Chamber of Commerce

Mindy McCloughan, President/CEO
Loveland Chamber of Commerce

Marianne Virgili
Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association

Andrea LeRew, President
Chamber of Commerce of Highlands Ranch

Barbara Koelzer, Chair of the Board
Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance

Rich Werner, President/CEO
Upstate Colorado Economic Development

Andy Montgomery, President/CEO
Northern Colorado Economic Alliance

Denise Stephens, Economic Development Director
City of Littleton

Matt Scherr, Mayor
Town of Minturn Economic Development

Shiela Cane, Executive Director
Baca County Economic Development

Troy McCue, Executive Director
Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation

Greg Thomason, Executive Director
Morgan County Economic Development

Cc: Members of the General Assembly

¹Poll commissioned April 2016, Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance/Fix North I-25 Business Alliance