

Resolution No. 03-31-17-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR A STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING INCREASE.

WHEREAS, Colorado's population has grown by more than 2 million people since 1991, the last time Colorado's gas tax was increased; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's 5.4 million residents are now driving 50 billion miles per year in total on Colorado's roads, bridges and highways; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans rely now on more fuel-efficient vehicles and use far less gasoline than in 1991, which is now severely crippling our state's gas-tax based funding system; and

WHEREAS; according to an Inside Energy analysis, after adjusting for inflation, Colorado's highway department is taking in 30 percent less money from gas taxes now than it did in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has dozens of critical transportation projects waiting for funding along the Front Range, Eastern Plains, Western Slope and San Luis Valley; and

WHEREAS, Colorado depends on a strong highway and transportation network to safely deliver goods to market and workers to their jobs and to attract economic investment; and

WHEREAS, a well-functioning, modern transportation network allows Colorado to maintain a regional, national and global competitive economic position; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's transportation network provides important economic and access benefits to individuals, small and large businesses, schools, emergency and safety providers, and tourists and travelers—while improved reliability, quality and access benefits every region across Colorado, including urban, suburban, rural and mountain communities; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure investment and construction jobs fuel our state's economy. According to national economic studies, every \$1 billion invested in nonresidential construction creates and sustains more than 28,000 jobs and another \$1.1 billion in personal earnings; and

WHEREAS, Colorado leaders should focus on investing in these critical infrastructure projects while the state's economy is strong and revenue is available to make significant improvements and advancements in Colorado's statewide transportation system; and

WHEREAS, our state needs a sustainable, long-term transportation-funding mechanism that allows Colorado to invest in its infrastructure, especially in strong or struggling economic times, without juggling competing political and policy mandates; and

WHEREAS, policymakers at all levels should be discussing how to transition transportation funding from the current gas-tax based system, which will never provide adequate funding as fuel efficiency and the aging highway system clash, to other methods.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PHILLIPS COUNTY THAT IT SUPPORTS SOLUTIONS FOR STATE-WIDE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING THAT:

Section 1. Provides permanent, reliable, and robust transportation funding for use as determined by the Colorado Transportation Commission pursuant to its statewide transportation planning process; and

Section 2. Establishes funding sufficient to seriously and aggressively address Colorado's current and future transportation needs; and

Section 3. Allows for both maintaining and expanding the existing system to meet the needs of a growing state; and

Section 4. Is added to the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) including formula shares for municipalities and counties, and is protected from future legislative actions that re-direct the resources to other uses.

Section 5. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

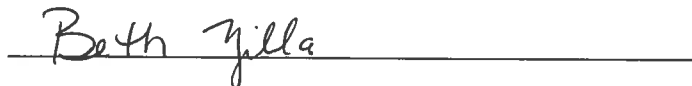
Section 6. If any portion or provision of this resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such portion or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution, the intention being that the same are severable.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 31ST day of March, 2017.



K. Joe Kinnie, Chairman

ATTEST:



Beth Zilla, County Clerk