



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Colorado

2011

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ACEC/CO'S ENGINEERING FIRMS

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING: The Legislature and Governor are urged to continue to support legislation that provides transportation funding, and to enact additional and innovative programs to increase the annual funding of Colorado's transportation system.

- Highway congestion and resulting economic cost impacts are increasing
 - Colorado's road and street systems are in a deterioration cycle
 - Our current bridge and roadway condition status is negative for attracting businesses
 - Sustainable funding mechanisms are preferred over cyclic revenue streams
 - Many Colorado industries depend on good roads for business efficiencies
- Effective, efficient multi-modal mobility is essential to quality of life, public safety, and economic vitality

SUSTAINABILITY: We encourage the Legislature and Governor to provide the leadership and create the policies required to make Colorado a leader in the New Energy Economy by supporting environmentally responsible development and use of all resources.

- Colorado's economy and security depend on reliable and affordable energy supply
- Traditional and New Energy resources can both be tapped for cost-effective energy
- Development of emerging energy technology can be accomplished locally
- Supply of energy must be balanced for reliable supply and distribution
- Conservation, sustainability and environmental considerations are paramount

HEALTH INSURANCE: We strongly support the advancement of legislation that will provide alternatives and affordable quality health insurance for all businesses and especially for the small business market.

- Yearly health premiums continue to significantly increase
- Small businesses have experienced higher yearly increases than other businesses
- We believe market-based solutions are better at the State level and not wait for federal solutions
- Market-based solutions will create more competition with better pricing when more insurance companies are encouraged to write policies in Colorado

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING: The vitality of Colorado's economy and future are greatly dependent on supporting our university systems in engineering and complementary disciplines.

- A CCHE report ranks Colorado 50th in per-capita state support of higher education
- Colorado needs highly skilled graduates to solve its many infrastructure challenges
- Colorado Engineering Colleges lag their peers nationally for per student funding levels

WATER RESOURCES: We strongly support continued Severance Tax funding for the Perpetual Base Account of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This account is necessary to support the loans, grants and studies performed through the CWCB creating jobs to develop and protect Colorado's water supply. Past transfers of \$120 million in past three years from CWCB accounts to meet shortfalls in the State general fund have severely limited this resource.

- Small community water and wastewater systems face an insurmountable task in maintaining and updating their facilities. State loans and grants are essential to closing this backlog.
- Colorado faces uncertainty in its water supplies and demands by downstream states. The state must continue to fund the studies necessary to assure our water supply for the future.
- 2011 Action - We encourage protection of the CWCB cash funds with amendments to **HB-1123** and **SB-35 (PI on 2/8/11)** which "Prohibit Transfers of Severance Related Revenue to General Fund" to include CWCB severance tax fund used for water project funding.

COMPETITION FROM STATE AGENCIES/OUTSOURCING OF SERVICES: We strongly encourage our legislators to be aware of the economic benefits, improved performance, and increased value to taxpayers of maximizing use of the private sector for providing engineering and related services.

- Private sector engineers deliver cost-effective services on an "as needed" basis

ACEC of Colorado
Marilen Reimer, Executive Director
800 Grant St., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80203
T: 303-832-2200 E: mar@acec-co.org

- Budget challenges and deadlines can be better achieved with the private sector
- Technological and other innovative solutions achieved through outsourcing will reduce project costs
- Cost-effective procurement is realized through competitive QBS procedures
- Increased use of private sector services will increase tax revenues to the State