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# 2015 Legislative Policy on Transportation

## Background

* + An essential responsibility of government is to facilitate citizen movement through the construction and maintenance of roads and highways, and by extension, other transportation modes. Currently, cities, counties, and the State of Colorado face increased vehicular traffic and a shortage of resources to meet future transportation needs.
	+ The vitality of the economy of the entire Eastern Metro Area is linked to the adequacy and efficiency of multi-modal transportation systems that move people and goods into, out of, and throughout this region.
	+ The business community supports efforts that plan and fund transportation improvements that will have a positive impact on the Eastern Metro area and the surrounding region.
	+ The Chamber strongly supports and encourages proactive cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions to promote connectivity in all ways.
	+ The Chamber has developed and continually updates a Transportation Action Plan which identifies needs and strategic transportation projects that address critical transportation issues in the Eastern Metro area.

## Policy Statement

* + The Chamber supports continuing education, cooperation, and information exchange with local governments, agencies, the business community and the public on the full range of transportation issues and needs.
	+ The Chamber favors sensible investments and improvement strategies that balance the needs for new capital construction and upgrades as well as funding maintenance efforts to properly manage the current transportation system.
	+ The Chamber supports an equitable and fair approach to transportation funding (Local, State and Federal) that recognizes the importance of implementing an adequate statewide transportation system.
	+ The Chamber supports the implementation of priority projects that will upgrade highways, roadways, and transportation systems to serve key areas and corridors in the Eastern Metro Area. These projects are listed in the regularly updated Chamber Project Support Matrix. Every effort should be focused on expediting these projects through the implementation process including the various stages of approvals and funding.
	+ Upon completion of the Planning and Environmental Linkage Study, the Chamber urges funding of the redesign of the southbound I-225 and DTC/Tamarac interchange.
	+ The Chamber continues to support a City wide bond issue extension to fund local transportation projects needed to implement the City’s vision for roads, parks, and recreational facilities.
	+ The Chamber continues to support the findings of former Governor Ritter’s Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel as well as the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel. We urge the legislature to continue to address the panel’s remaining recommendations for funding the shortfall in state transportation funding.
	+ The Chamber supports the continued full funding of the full FasTracks Program.
	+ The Chamber will support a design of the planned transfer station at Peoria that provides an efficient rail transfer to and from the I-225 LRT system. In addition, we support a public/private partnership approach to a multi-modal, multi-purpose transfer station designed to make a statement as a major Aurora portal incorporating a positive experience for riders wanting to transfer to and from the I-225 LRT system.