

# **TOGETHER WE BUILD:** **HOW FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS CAN PUT COLORADANS BACK TO WORK**

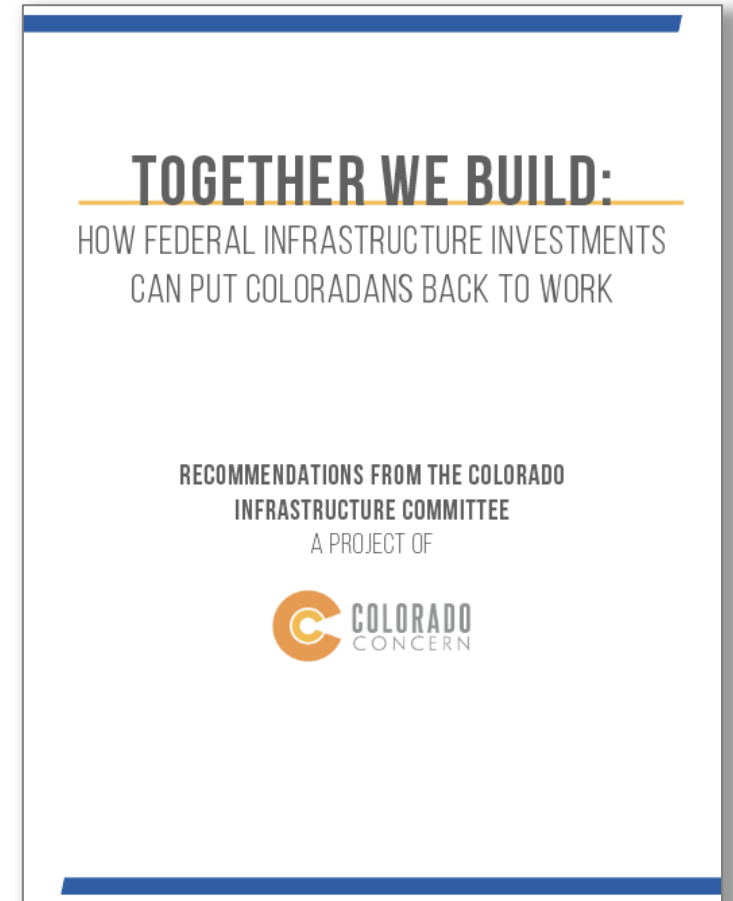
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE  
COLORADO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

A PROJECT OF  **COLORADO**  
CONCERN

# About the Colorado Infrastructure Committee

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown our country into an unprecedented economic decline. Once the immediate public health crisis has passed, congressional leaders and White House officials have signaled that federal infrastructure spending will be a major priority.

To address this need, Colorado Concern organized a bipartisan coalition of business and civic leaders, non-profit organizations, local government officials and state legislative leaders to provide federal policymakers with the guidance and support they need to maximize the impact of a national infrastructure program in Colorado.



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CEO and Chairman, Liberty Oilfield Services

# Colorado Infrastructure Committee Mission

Putting Colorado back to work and bringing the communities of our state closer together through investments in infrastructure to build a strong, prosperous and resilient future for our state.

In identifying projects, we agreed that, as much as practicable, they be...

-  **IMMEDIATE:** Work should begin quickly, because Coloradans need jobs.
-  **ENDURING:** Projects that provide long-term value should be our priority. Even if they take years to complete, work can start now, and a multi-year pipeline of projects will provide certainty and stability to the state's economic outlook.
-  **EQUITABLE:** While not every community can – or should – receive exactly the same level or kind of investment, we will strive to make our recommendations fair in terms of geographic, socioeconomic, racial, cultural and other factors.

# Why Infrastructure?

The COVID-19 crisis has caused serious harm to our country, and not just in terms of public health.

The economic lockdown put tens of millions of Americans out of work, forced millions of businesses to curtail or cease operations, and decimated government budgets across the U.S.

In Colorado, lawmakers are grappling with

**\$3 BILLION**  
BUDGET SHORTFALL

more than

**400,000 people**

FILED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

during a two-month period between mid-March and mid-May

The workers and employers of this country need confidence. Confidence that the economy will do more than just reopen. Confidence it will come back strong, and keep getting stronger, in the months and years ahead.

# Providing Jobs, Speeding Pace Of Recovery

To be sure: A major infrastructure program is not a silver bullet.  
But it can speed the pace of the recovery.

**11.4 MILLION**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF U.S. JOBS  
CREATED UNDER A \$1 TRILLION  
INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS

Source: Georgetown University

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE PAYS FOR  
ITSELF SEVERAL TIMES OVER. **EVERY  
ADDITIONAL \$1 INVESTED IN  
INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERS  
ROUGHLY \$3.70 IN ADDITIONAL  
ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER 20 YEARS.**

Source: The Business Roundtable

# A Time To Act

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This is not a time for half measures or coming up short.

**THIS IS NOT A RED STATE OR BLUE STATE  
CRISIS. THIS IS A RED WHITE AND BLUE  
PANDEMIC. THE CORONAVIRUS IS APOLITICAL.**

Govs. Andrew Cuomo, D-NY, and Larry Hogan, R-MD

# Urgent Needs Across Colorado

In addition to the immediate economic damage caused by the COVID-19 lockdown, the nation's infrastructure crisis is acutely felt here:

- We are a fast-growing, trade-oriented state with a **thriving tourism and outdoor recreation sector**
- Our economic growth depends on the **efficient movement of people and goods**, which becomes increasingly difficult as infrastructure fails to keep up with demand
- Many Colorado communities struggle to participate in the 21st century economy due to **poor or non-existent broadband internet access** – a problem made abundantly clear during lockdown.



# Growth Is Outpacing Our Infrastructure Investment






Since 2010, Colorado's population has grown by more than 750,000, to 5.7 million.

Population growth is expected to continue at a similar rate through 2030 – to 6.7 million.

**But our infrastructure has barely improved since being deemed inadequate by ASCE 10 years ago.** We are stuck in the poor- to-mediocre category, and unless there is a surge of infrastructure investment soon, things could get worse.

# High-Impact Projects Across 5 Areas

\$16.95-20.25 BILLION TO ADDRESS CRITICAL NEEDS, PERSISTENT AND STRUCTURAL UNDERFUNDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN COLORADO.

	Roads, Rail, Aviation and Mass Transit	\$7.68 -10.98 billion
	Water Infrastructure	\$3.00 billion
	Energy and the Environment	\$3.65 billion
	Local Commerce and Communications Infrastructure	\$0.77 billion
	Education Infrastructure	\$1.85 billion
<b>Total investment</b>		<b>\$16.95 - 20.25 billion</b>

Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this document may not add up precisely to the totals provided



# Roads, Rail, Aviation and Mass Transit

\$7.68-\$10.98 BILLION FOR CRITICAL INVESTMENTS IN COLORADO'S  
ROADS, RAIL, AVIATION & TRANSIT

Statewide CDOT Priorities	\$5.50 billion
County and Municipal Priorities	\$1.00 - 4.00 billion
Aviation Priorities	\$0.60 billion
Rail Priorities	\$0.28 billion
Separation of Commercial/Non-Commercial Traffic	\$0.30 - 0.60 billion
<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>\$7.68 - \$10.98 billion</b>

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# Water Infrastructure

\$3.00 BILLION FOR DRINKING WATER, WATER TREATMENT, AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES, RECYCLED WATER, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND RIVER HEALTH

Drinking Water Revolving Fund/Water Pollution Revolving Loan Funds	\$2.36 billion
Colorado Water Plan Projects	\$0.10 billion
WaterSMART	\$0.09 billion
NRCS/Department of Ag Programs	\$0.09 billion
Re-use Investments (primarily metro)	\$0.10 billion
Dam Repair and Dredging	\$0.15 billion
Federal Programs	\$0.10 billion
<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>\$3.00 billion</b>

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# Energy & Environment

\$3.65 BILLION FOR FORESTS, PARKS, LAND CONSERVATION, YOUTH AND OUTDOOR PROGRAMS, WILDFIRE MITIGATION, RENEWABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE, APPLIANCE REBATES AND ENERGY SECURITY

## Forest Health, Wildfire Mitigation, and Watershed Protection

Forest Action Plan	\$1.50 billion
Power Line Vegetation Management Grant Program	\$0.01 billion

## Preparing for our Renewable Energy Future

ARPA-E	\$0.37 billion
The Colorado Renewable and Clean Energy Challenge	\$0.01 billion
Reinstate the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Community Block Grant Program	\$.09 billion
Increase Funding for Weatherization Assistance Programs	\$0.09 billion
Increased Funding for Appliance and Insulation Rebate Programs	\$0.09 billion
Ensuring Energy Security and Resilience	\$0.30 billion

## Investment in Outdoor Recreation

Federal Parks Maintenance	\$0.57 billion
Great Outdoors Colorado	\$0.15 billion
Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources and Environment Colorado Program	\$0.02 billion
Colorado Youth Corps Association	\$0.01 billion
Development of Fisher’s Peak in Trinidad, Colorado	\$0.01 billion
State Park Acquisitions	\$0.25 billion
Bringing State Parks Online	\$0.06 billion
State Park Maintenance and Upgrades	\$0.04 billion
Wildlife Corridor Projects on I-70	\$0.10 billion

<b>Total investment</b>	<b>\$3.65 billion</b>
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# Local Commerce and Communications Infrastructure

\$0.8 BILLION TO INVEST IN HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE BY DELIVERING BROADBAND TO RURAL AREAS AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Broadband for Rural and/or Underserved Households     \$0.77 billion

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**Total investment**     **\$0.77 billion**

Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this document may not add up precisely to the totals provided



# Education Infrastructure

\$1.8 BILLION FOR COLORADO'S PRE-K-20 EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Higher Ed Bond Relief	\$0.50 million
PK-12 Hardware, Broadband and Professional Development	\$0.45 million
CDC Higher Ed List	\$0.53 million
Best Grants	\$0.37 million
<b>Total investment</b>	<b>\$1.85 billion</b>

Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this document may not add up precisely to the totals provided

# Colorado Routinely Shortchanged

By one critical measure – apportionments and allocations from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) – federal funding for transportation infrastructure in Colorado has persistently fallen behind our growing share of the U.S. population.

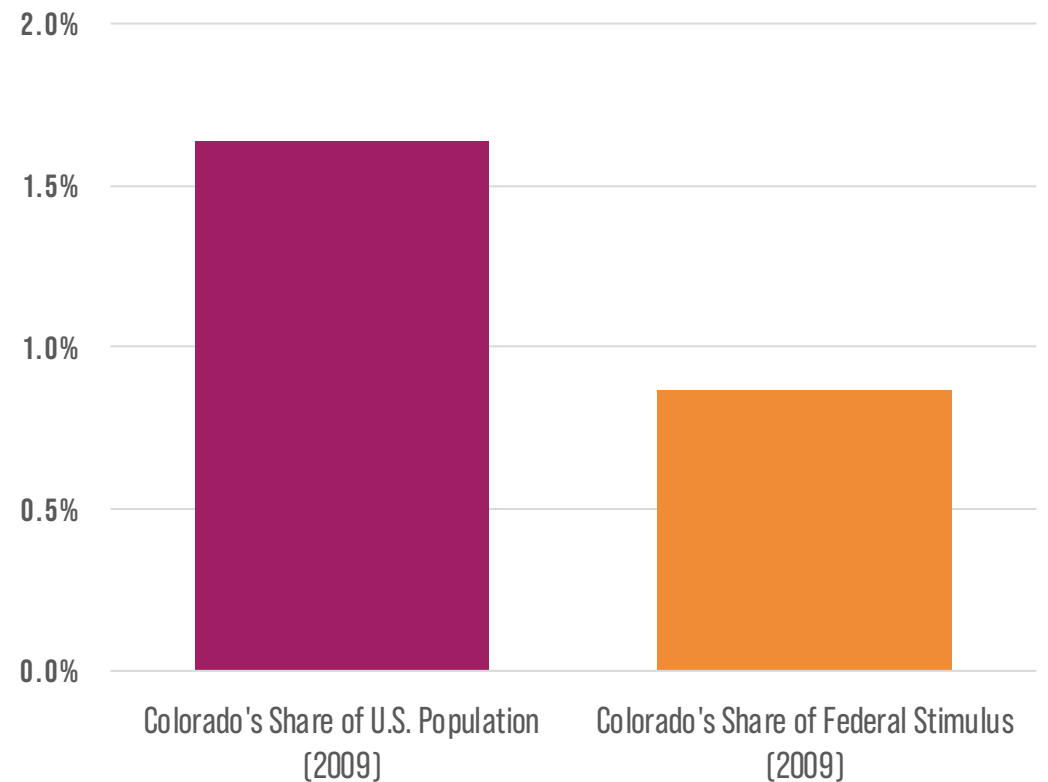
Over a 20-year period, Colorado's share of HTF money exceeded our share of the national population only once – in 2014.

The \$831 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, passed in response to the Great Recession of 2007-2009, did not provide a long-term fix for our infrastructure problems.

Colorado's share of the 2009 stimulus was \$7.2 billion – roughly 0.87 percent of the national total.

For scale, 0.87 percent was roughly half Colorado's share of the national population at the time – meaning our state was short-changed again.

Colorado Share of U.S. Population vs.  
Colorado Share of 2009 Federal Stimulus





# Colorado's Split as a Reflection Of Population

Colorado lawmakers should insist on a minimum of 1.75% of any infrastructure package, based on our share of the national population. Using this benchmark, Colorado's rightful share of a \$1 trillion package would be \$17.5 billion.

To be clear, 1.75% is not a ceiling. Based on a range of factors, including historical funding trends or the national significance of Colorado's military bases and federal lands, it could be argued this percentage should be larger.

# Conclusion

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## A BIPARTISAN PLAN TO MAKE A STRONGER FUTURE A REALITY

A national infrastructure stimulus can make a major contribution to the new jobs and higher incomes that we desperately need, while at the same time building – quite literally – a stronger future for our state.

Colorado's business community, non-profit groups and the leaders of our public institutions are ready and willing to partner with our state and federal partners to make this stronger future a reality.

# Special Thanks to Our Tireless Subcommittee Members Who Came Together for the Future of Colorado

## **EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE SUBCOMMITTEE**

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# Special Thanks to Our Colorado Consultants

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