

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2018-88

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF "LET'S GO, COLORADO," A STATE CITIZEN INITIATIVE DESIGNATED AS INITIATIVE #153, TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR STATEWIDE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

WHEREAS, on Nov. 6, 2018, state voters may have the opportunity to support a measure to increase the state sales tax by 0.62% for twenty years, or about six cents on a ten-dollar purchase, for statewide and local transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, a modern, safe, and efficient 21st century transportation system is essential to Colorado's quality of life and the health of our economy; and

WHEREAS, annual state transportation spending per driver, adjusted for inflation, is about half of what it was in 1991, while Colorado's population has grown nearly 60 percent since that time; and

WHEREAS, the increased demands on Colorado's transportation infrastructure has resulted in increased traffic congestion, safety concerns, air pollution, and lost worker productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has identified \$9 billion in much-needed statewide transportation projects that lack funding; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County has identified a significant shortfall in the funding necessary to maintain its transportation infrastructure, ensure safety, and meet mobility needs; and

WHEREAS, the failure to maintain roads and bridges adequately costs Coloradans an average of \$468 per driver per year due to damage and unnecessary wear-and-tear to vehicles; and

WHEREAS, addressing Colorado's transportation funding challenges requires a dedicated, sufficient, and guaranteed stream of revenue at the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan, statewide group of local elected officials and business leaders has proposed to raise the state sales tax by 0.62 percent, or about six cents on a ten-dollar purchase, for transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, Initiative #153 could be expected to raise \$767 million in its first year and allow for the bonding of \$6 billion for state transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, of the revenue generated by Initiative #153, 60 percent would be directed to state transportation projects, multimodal transportation investments, and bond repayment, with \$705 million slated to fund projects that are significant regional priorities for Boulder County residents, workers, and visitors, including:

- SH 119 (Diagonal Highway)- from Downtown Boulder to Downtown Longmont
Managed/express lanes, regional arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), safety measures, and commuter bikeway and other multi-modal improvements,
- SH 7, Downtown Boulder to Downtown Brighton
Managed/express lanes, arterial BRT, safety measures, and commuter bikeway and other multimodal improvements,

- SH7/I25 Interchange/Multimodal Hub
Interchange reconstruction and a multimodal hub with transit/bike/pedestrian improvements to improve transit connections between North I25 and the SH7/Arapahoe Avenue corridor,
- US 287 from SH 66 to US 36
Managed/express lanes, arterial BRT, safety measures, and multimodal improvements,
- SH 42/95th Street
Managed/express lanes, arterial BRT, safety measures, and commuter bikeway and other multimodal improvements,
- US 36/28th Street and SH 93/Broadway
Operational improvements for multiple regional BRT routes,
- SH 95/Sheridan Boulevard
Lane balancing and multimodal grade separation of the US 36 Bikeway; and

WHEREAS, the remaining 40 percent of new revenue would be allocated equally between county and municipal governments and made available for multimodal capital or operational expenses as determined by local transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County and its communities are expected to receive over \$250 million in state transportation funding for local projects over the next 20 years from this revenue source, which will help bring an estimated \$956 million in additional transportation funding to improve Boulder County mobility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners endorses Initiative #153 as a strong solution to address Colorado's transportation funding shortfalls and provide for the mobility needs of all Boulder County residents, workers, and visitors. Should Initiative #153 qualify for the 2018 state general election ballot, the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners urges community members to vote FOR the measure.

ADOPTED this 14th day of August, 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
BOULDER COUNTY**


Cindy Domenico, Chair


Elise Jones, Vice Chair


Deb Gardner, Commissioner