



What is Fix Our Damn Roads?

FODR is a statutory (not constitutional) citizen's initiative spearheaded by the Independence Institute to require the state of Colorado to bond \$3.5 billion for specifically listed road and bridge projects around the state, **WITHOUT RAISING TAXES OR FEES.**

None of the funding can be used for buses, trolleys, bike lanes, or other transit/multi-modal projects – only roads and bridges.

The projects come completely from CDOT's Tier 1 projects list. This initiative funds the most needed road expansions around the state by name and location, so voters know exactly what they are getting.

Why are our roads so bad?

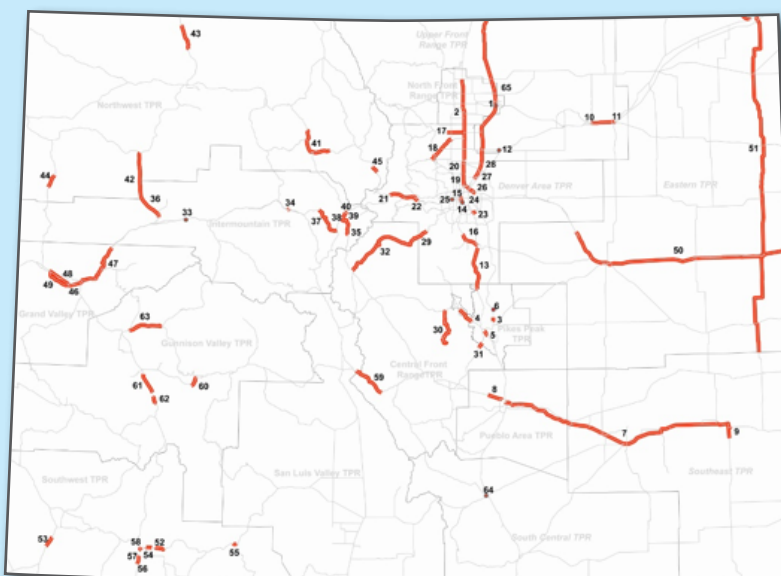
Roads are a core function of government, which

the state legislature has been ignoring for over a decade, mostly to fill the growing hole of Medicaid expansion. In fiscal year 06-07 the state spent nearly 10% of its budget on roads. By fiscal year 15-16 that dropped to about 6%, while Medicaid spending is around a third of the budget.

So, any attempt to raise taxes for “transportation” is merely a bait-and-switch ploy to fill the hole of Medicaid.

Another reason our roads are in such bad shape is that too much “transportation” is being siphoned off to transit, which carries relatively few people. For example, RTD's total budget is nearly \$2 billion, but RTD carries less than 4.5 percent (and dropping) of the commutes in the Denver Metro area. By contrast CDOT, which carries travel over the entire state had total a budget of a mere \$1.4 billion.

Road projects funded by Fix Our Damn Roads



Prepared by: Colorado Legislative Council | Data provided by: Colorado Department of Transportation

Transit continues to suck funding away from roads. CDOT is pushing mission creep with a subsidized bus service, called “Bustang,” that competes with private bus companies like Greyhound. The “FASTER” fee on car registrations is being used for bike paths.

How do we pay back the \$3.5 billion?

The carrying cost is only about \$300 million a year, far less than 2% of the current budget. Who doesn’t believe the state can’t reallocate 2%? Amazingly, they don’t even have to do that! Changes in federal tax law will result in a huge windfall for the state. Legislative Council predicts within a few years the state will be getting nearly \$900 million a year in new funding from this windfall. The state currently has a \$1.3 billion surplus!

What do voters think?

Polling for Fix Our Damn Roads is at 73% yes. (Magellan and PPP)

Where are we now?

Yes to roads. No to taxes. FODR simply requires the legislature to do its job and re-prioritize Colorado’s crumbling road and bridge infrastructure in the state budget, without a tax or fee increase.



Colorado State Spending on Transportation And All Other State Activities

Source: CAFR, various years

