

## TRANSPORTATION ISSUE PROJECT TEAM VISION STATEMENT

While providing for the present and planning for the future, the vision of the community is to maintain and improve the quality of life and to promote future economic opportunities in Logan County and adjacent communities in Northeast Colorado by the development of a multi-modal transportation system that moves people, commodities and data and further to inform citizens of the importance of these transportation systems that connect us to the global marketplace.

### PROFILE

Transportation, the ability to easily move people and goods, has been throughout history one of the most significant criteria in the development of civilization, as we know it today. America has put men on the moon, have spacecraft that have explored Mars and beyond and shuttle craft that transport payloads into space on a regular basis. So what does the future of transportation hold in store for Northeastern Colorado.

By 2020, Logan County can anticipate a population as projected by the Colorado State Department of Local Affairs Demographer's office of 30,879 residents, or an increase of approximately 50% over the 2000 figure of 20,504. Our community must take a proactive approach in planning for future transportation requirements. Criteria that must be considered include but are not limited to: current and future quality of life, law enforcement and emergency services, funding of repair and maintenance along with future construction and community acceptance. Unprecedented community wide cooperation, communication, flexibility and farsighted willingness to take manageable financial and political risk are essential to providing the transportation base that Logan County needs to realize the future its citizens expect.

### GOALS

Utilizing the preceding information as our focal point, the Transportation Issue Project Team offers the following major goals for consideration:

- Education/Communication
- Funding/Money
- Direction for the Future

#### **GOAL #1**

##### EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION

###### *Rationale:*

An educated and informed community will recognize and take a proactive approach toward transportation-related opportunities.

###### *Strategies:*

1. Minimize the learning curve on transportation issues by educating public officials.
2. Secure a full time facilitator to provide the necessary information flow and develop a plan with the purpose of securing the maximum transportation dollars available.

3. “Get people plugged in – keep them plugged in”
4. Stay current on legislation, enhancements and endowments from both private and public sector that would impact all resources of revenue, including but not limited to pool funds and matching funds.
5. Develop leadership continuity that will promote transportation issues in Northeast Colorado.

*Implementation:*

- Develop and maintain an ongoing orientation and familiarization process for all officials.
- Provide continuity with elected officials to minimize the learning curve on transportation issues.
- Provide a forum for an ongoing information exchange.
- Develop a public education plan, to include public meetings, and all available media. “Get people plugged in – keep them plugged in”
- Define why this facilitator position is needed.
- Demonstrate that value this position would have on the local economy.
- Fill position restructuring an existing position?
- Commit to a time frame long enough to measure the success of the facilitator position.
- Dedicate facilitator position solely to improving transportation.
- Pursue all resources, including matching funds, pool dollars or grants.
- Start public support at the grass-roots level.
- Develop a marketing strategy, aimed at getting people involved and keeping them involved.
- Help people understand the need and importance of transportation in the community.
- Utilize all resources available to coordinate effort and minimize duplication.
- Utilize the twenty-year surface transportation plan already in place.
- Provide detailed updates every five years.
- Produce a multi-year capital improvement plan.
- Utilize annual budgets to strategize matching funds.
- Prepare a local project prioritization plan, to be included in the unconstrained regional plan. To provide:
  - A list of enhancement funding projects
  - A multi project list
- Provide a timeline with the ability to react in an efficient and effective manner.
- Utilize all resources including matching funds to maximize transportation dollars.

**GOAL #2**  
**FUNDING/MONEY**

*Rationale:*

Our community must take a proactive approach toward transportation funding. Both the maintenance and upgrading of existing facilities are expensive and we must utilize all revenue sources to our maximum benefit.

*Strategies:*

1. Develop an implementation process that will maximize projects, best utilize new and existing revenue sources and minimize the burden of those projects on area residents.
2. Develop an administrative plan with the purpose of funding a transportation facilitator position.
3. Become familiar with the proposed Strategic Investment Plan being promoted in some circles at the State level.
4. Adhere to the philosophy that operation and maintenance costs are considered as a part of all transportation construction projects.

*Implementation:*

- Identify and maintain a list of all sources of local match funding opportunities.
- Identify and maintain sources of monetary and work-in-kind contributors.
- Monitor, identify and pursue all grant sources.
- Identify those projects that may be stand alone (local funded) projects.
- Annually review and prioritize transportation projects.
- Local need prioritization
- Transportation Planning Region prioritization
- (Logan projects that require federal matching dollars, must be on the TPR prioritization list to secure funding)
- Implement Education/Communication action plan to enhance Funding/Money.
- Develop a pro-active coalition of municipalities, county, state and private sector.
- Develop city and county support based proportional to the population base of each entity.
- Take a pro-active stance to posture ourselves, in support of or in opposition to the Strategic Investment funding proposal.
- All projects will require ongoing operation and maintenance expenditures.
- Utilizing these resources may reduce these costs:
  - Volunteer Labor
  - Inmate Labor
  - Work-In-Kind
  - Adoptions by service clubs or organizations (Adopt-a-Highway)
  - Public Service
- If resources are insufficient to meet ongoing costs, then additional budget allocations must be sufficient to meet these costs.

**GOAL #3**

## DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE

### *Rationale:*

If we don't know where we are headed, then any direction we choose is the right choice.

### *Strategies:*

1. Develop a unified, strategic, countywide Traffic Flow strategy to address smooth, fluid and easy traffic movement through the county that also addresses county wide emergency services.
2. Take a proactive approach, in establishing growth strategies.
3. Take a proactive approach to mass transportation alternatives and begin analysis and development plans.
4. Utilize geographic planning as one set of criteria in all transportation planning.
5. Take a proactive approach to environmental issues impacting transportation.

### *Implementation:*

- Provide for cooperative planning effort, involving municipalities, county and state.
- Develop alternative transportation routing plans.
- Develop a plan to utilize alternative transportation.
- Fully utilize existing facilities to minimize congestion and maximize flow.
- Continue to maintain and improve existing transportation arterials and take a proactive toward utilizing new and improved arterials.
- Look at growth in planned versus unplanned scenarios.
- Take a proactive approach to growth instead of waiting to be reactive.
- Develop plans based on multiple growth strategies.
- Include infrastructure and capital development alternatives, operation and maintenance costs, alternative funding scenarios in all plans.
- Develop a plan for fixed route mass transportation.
- Develop a plan to address air service in our community.
  - Evaluate our existing air service.
  - Evaluate current and future infrastructure aviation requirements.
  - Evaluate current and future community aviation requirements.
  - Develop a growth strategy for local air service.
- Develop a strategy to explore the utilization of light rail service.
  - Evaluate the benefits of high-speed rail.
  - Evaluate the alternative utilization of existing rail or right of way.
  - Evaluate the feasibility of light rail transportation alternatives to the Front Range corridor.
- Develop a strategy to improve public safety due to transportation of hazardous materials.
  - Plan to maximize public safety through designated hazardous material routing.
  - Plan to improve the community communication on hazardous material routing.

- Develop a strategy to improve traffic flow and improve public safety due to transport of oversized loads.
  - Plan to maximize public safety through designated oversize load routes.
  - Lobby the State of Colorado to maximize revenue to help offset cost of oversize transportation.
- Develop a strategy to improve the utilization of data transport.
  - Plan for infrastructure to handle data transmission.
  - Improve on coordination of emergency services operation through the use of existing technology.
- Develop a coordinated Emergency Response plan.
- Develop a strategy to improve upon the transportation of commodities into and out of our community.
  - Plan for shipping and receiving of commodities
  - Improve utilization of existing storage, transfer and warehousing facilities.
- Evaluate the transportation issues in future planning for industrial sites.
  - Develop strategies for ingress and egress.
  - Evaluate the sites on proximity to transportation systems.
  - Evaluate the sites to address impact on traffic flow.
- Plan for and utilize green belts when considering future transportation routes.
  - Evaluate the benefits of bicycle/pedestrian routes.
  - Evaluate the extent of Open Space requirements.
- Develop plans to enhance historical preservation.
- Develop plans to improve Aesthetic Image in our community.
  - Unclean, vacant, unkempt buildings, excessive vegetation
  - Trashy, messy, unsightly properties
  - Enforcement of existing legislation
- As we look at transportation alternatives this community will strive to meet environmental standards in the construction, operation and maintenance of our transportation systems.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS:

Gary Ray (Chairman)

Doug Kettelson

Gene Uhler

Larry Worth

Rick Yost

Joe Nichols

Laura Portenier

Jim Hof