

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 14, 2006  
**TO:** PPACG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jennifer Young, Policy and Communications Manager  
**THROUGH:** Robert MacDonald, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution of Support for Federal Funding of State Strategic Projects in the Pikes Peak Region

***ACTION REQUESTED: Review and Approve***

**SUMMARY**

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has requested that PPACG identify priority transportation projects for consideration in the statewide request for federal discretionary funds (earmarks) for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. PPACG staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve a resolution of support for CDOT requesting earmarked funds exclusively for strategic corridor (7<sup>th</sup> Pot) projects. Two of the fourteen remaining uncompleted strategic projects statewide are in the Pikes Peak Area. These are the I-25 corridor and the Powers Boulevard corridor.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

Previously the Board has submitted the current TIP for earmarks. In 2006, the Board adopted a policy whereby projects receiving earmarks that are not in the TIP require the awarded entity to delete an equal amount of funding from within the existing TIP.

**BACKGROUND:**

SAFETEA-LU, while increasing overall funding, did so with over 6,000 earmarked projects. If the earmarked projects are not in the TIP, then they short-circuit the transportation planning process by moving the earmarked projects ahead of other projects with a higher regional priority. Earmarking funds for projects is likely to continue to some degree in the foreseeable future. The completion of the statewide strategic corridors is also increasing in timeframe. Therefore, staff recommends seeking earmarked funds from within the uncompleted strategic corridors in the Pikes Peak Region, I-25 and Powers Boulevard. Combined, these two projects exceed \$1.5 billion in needed funding.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

**STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:**

Work with the CDOT Transportation Commission STAC and legislature to ensure timely progress on the list of 28 voter-approved projects.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Resolution
2. Disapprove the Resolution
3. Request more information

**RECOMMENDATION:**

PPACG staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve a Resolution of Support for only strategic corridor (7<sup>th</sup>-Pot) projects.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

Approve a Resolution of Support for only strategic corridor (7<sup>th</sup>-Pot) projects.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution of Support for Federal Funding of State Strategic Projects in the Pikes Peak Region