

## Regional Transportation Authorities (RTA)

### Panel Position Statement

*Revised Draft 9-11-08*

State action to increase funding for transportation is an essential first step toward rebuilding and sustaining Colorado's transportation infrastructure. Increased investment is needed throughout the state in roadway, bridge and transit infrastructure. Infrastructure improvements are needed to support our growing economy, sustain jobs, manage our energy consumption and provide our citizens with the mobility they need. Transportation reinvestment strategies must encompass federal, state, regional and local funding sources.

To prepare for the 2009 legislative session, the panel will present a revised list of statewide funding options for legislative consideration. With the support of a growing transportation coalition, we believe an investment strategy can be adopted by the legislature and/or be forwarded to the ballot.

Regional transportation authorities should be considered an important piece of the transportation funding puzzle. After a new statewide funding source is established for transportation, RTAs can work to leverage the state investment, match state funding sources, or be used to invest in local road and transit projects that compliment state transportation investment.

The Panel recommends that a statewide funding proposal be pursued prior to the creation of a metro area RTA. RTAs should be recognized as an important consideration in the transportation funding mix. The Panel recognizes that if no action is taken by the state in 2009, local governments may choose to pursue RTAs. Depending on the scope of these RTAs, subsequent crafting of a solution that addresses transportation challenges throughout the state may be more difficult.

