

LGBAC Transportation Policy Statement

Adopted by the Chamber of Commerce Board, October 2008

Philosophy

The Greeley Chamber of Commerce understands the importance that city, state, and federal governments have in providing a transportation system for moving goods and services for the economic benefit of all businesses. The three government entities should be integrated into systems that include all modes and all users. The state covers 9,000 miles and 3500 bridges and has responsibility for all federal programs: FTA (Federal Transit Administration); FHWA (Federal Highway Administration); FAA (Federal Aviation Administration); and FRA (Federal Railroad Administration).

There are 28 unincorporated cities and towns that own and maintain numerous additional roads, bridges, and transportation systems.

Currently the City of Greeley maintains 356 paved miles of roads in Greeley, 38 of which are highway miles.

Currently Weld County maintains 700 paved and 2500 gravel miles of roads, plus 540 bridges.

Transportation infrastructure includes roads and streets, signalization, mass transit, air service and pedestrian and bicycle trails. The Chamber believes that all such elements must be present to have a viable transportation system that meets the needs of the community.

- The Chamber believes a quality transportation system that allows people and goods to move quickly, conveniently, and reliably around the community and region is necessary to preserve and improve quality of life, economic growth and environmental quality.
- The local and regional transportation infrastructure (operational & maintenance) must be constantly improved to provide connectivity for Greeley area businesses and to assist in the development of Greeley as a growing residential, commercial and leisure destination.
- Intergovernmental agreements and cooperation are necessary to maximize the dollars for a comprehensive transportation operations and maintenance plan.
- Transportation investments (funding) are needed to improve mobility and contribute to new development, jobs, and sources of revenue.

Policies

Regional Transportation Plan

- The Chamber supports efforts to develop a strategic and comprehensive regional transportation plan.
- The Chamber supports mechanisms such as public private partnerships to implement a comprehensive regional transportation plan.
- The Chamber supports the need for studies to evaluate the feasibility of commuter service between Greeley and Denver.

Greeley-Weld County Airport

- The Chamber supports the Greeley-Weld County Airport's intent to build an Air Traffic Control Tower to make the area safer for private and recreational pilots.
- The Chamber supports future economic development activities and related services that will have a positive impact on the local economy.
- The Chamber supports FAA approved improvements to the airport infrastructure.

Roadways

- The Chamber supports efforts to enhance all modes of transportation that move people and goods efficiently.
- The Chamber supports improvements to US Highway 85 to improve Greeley's link to commerce.
- The Chamber supports efforts to maintain and improve Greeley's high level of infrastructure safety standards for bridges and roadways.
- The Chamber supports the expansion of the US Highway 34 business route, west of Greeley, from 2 lanes to 4 lanes.

Rail

- The Chamber supports main-line expansion for additional freight lines to the East of Greeley.
- The Chamber supports the need for studies to evaluate the feasibility of commuter rail in northern Colorado.
- The Chamber supports exploring mitigation strategies to reduce train horn noise (near our local conference facility).

Transit

- The Chamber supports the exploration of expanding routes to accommodate major employers in public-private partnerships.
- The Chamber supports transit to improve the ability of residents to travel easily throughout the region to promote healthy economic activity.
- The Chamber supports the use of free to reduced-cost transit to provide transportation for people who cannot drive themselves, particularly for employment, education and medical purposes.
- The Chamber supports the need for studies to evaluate the economic viability and feasibility of additional local and/or regional transit systems.

Alternative Transportation

- The Chamber supports the development of non-motorized transportation alternatives to create a more walk-able and bike-friendly community.

Action Items

- The Chamber advocates a review of the state's long-range transportation plan in relation to US Highway 34 and US Highway 85.
- The Chamber supports the need to review community signage to insure travelers' safety and ease of mobility.
- The Chamber supports all future alternative transportation exploration that includes a comprehensive review of ridership.
- The Chamber supports exploration of a transit system that includes the DDA, UNC, NCMC and beyond.
- Review City, County and State long range plans.