

Re TEA-21 Reauthorization comments: the "Colorado Principles" in your web site is wrong and obsolete. The CDOT Commission approved different ones recently. This is what the new ones are.

Colorado's Policy Directions for TEA-21 Reauthorization

Basic Principles

Preamble: Maximize opportunities for Colorado Department of Transportation and others to optimize funding for the transportation system.

Principle #1: TEA-21 Policy Direction Should be Maintained With Minor Modification

- Support One-DOT concept

- Continue to find ways for CDOT to work cooperatively with other transportation programs on the regional and local level

- A balance between statewide focus and regional needs

- Maintain a statewide perspective

- Respect for urban and rural concerns

- Recognition of statewide responsibilities

Principle #2: More federal money for transportation statewide

- Preserve federal HUTF for transportation

- Preserve the TEA-21 budgetary "firewalls"

- Maintain at least the minimum guaranteed levels of funding for highways and transit

- Sustain federal allocations by formula funding to the states

- Allow RABA monies to be used as part of formula allocation rather than discretionary

- Provide IRS tax breaks for private entities to issue tax exempt bonds for

public-private transportation projects (HIXA)

- Encourage innovative financing opportunities (eg. State Infrastructure Banks (SIB), TIFIA, Public Private Partnership Initiative, etc)

- Provide the state's flexibility in the use of federal funds to optimize the

transportation system

Principle #3: Eliminate Mandates, Sanctions and Restrictions

- Sustain pilot program for state discretion in tolling interstates

- Environmental streamlining should be effective

- Ensure that the Environmental Justice process is in line with the principles of environmental streamlining