

EL PASO  **COUNTY**
COLORADO

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

DENNIS HISEY

VICE-CHAIR

February 10, 2016

Representative Terri Carver
 200 East Colfax Avenue
 Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support of HB 16-1031

Representative Carver and members of the Transportation and Energy Committee,

I am writing in support of your bill requiring the State Transportation Legislative Review Committee (TLRC) to study the Transportation Commission Districts as established in CRS 43-1-106 (2). In my view, a study is badly needed to determine whether the alignment of the districts should be modified to assure appropriate representation on the Commission.

Transportation Commission (TC) members are appointed from eleven statutorily defined Transportation Commission Districts and the general assembly has not modified the number or boundaries of the districts since 1991. Over the last twenty-five years, districts across the state, including El Paso County, have seen significant changes with huge impacts on the local, state and federal transportation systems. Increasing population and employment are putting greater demand on the existing transportation system. Annual funding for transportation can no longer keep pace with the costs of operating, maintaining, and improving the statewide transportation system. So, like many other states, Colorado needs to explore all possible funding options and finance mechanisms to stretch dollars further, reduce dependency on uncertain federal funding and ensure that our transportation infrastructure will meet the needs of a vibrant and globalized economy. Public safety, access to jobs, the efficient movement of freight and economic vitality depend on good transportation infrastructure.

Statewide, and within El Paso County, we have a diverse and challenging transportation infrastructure. We must build, operate, and maintain a cost-efficient multi-modal transportation system and we will need to work together, both regionally and statewide, to address the many challenges that lie ahead. El Paso County believes that a research study examining the impact of changes over the last 25 years on our Transportation Commission structure is overdue.

The Transportation Commission has a critical role making recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on transportation policy, projects, programs and budget. I appreciate your sponsorship of 16-1031 and urge its support for a study during the 2016 legislative interim.

Sincerely,



Dennis Hisey, Vice Chair
 Board of El Paso County Commissioners

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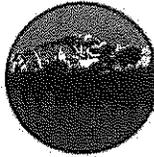
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Robert MacDonald



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

February 11, 2016

Representative Max Tyler
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Support of HB 16-1031

Representative Tyler and members of the Transportation and Energy Committee:

On January 13, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Board of Directors gave their unanimous support for HB 16-1031, which directs the Transportation Legislative Review Committee to study the composition of Transportation Commission districts and whether they should be modified.

PPACG believes the study will arm decision-makers with important information affecting district representation, such as population, number of lane miles, and annual vehicle miles traveled in each district, as well as the boundaries of transportation planning regions and metropolitan planning organizations. This data has not been reviewed since 1991. We encourage the committee to advance this bill, and we look forward to reading the committee's future recommendations on options for ensuring the best representation and decision-making for the transportation system and the citizens who use it.

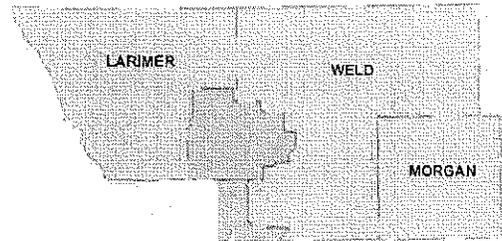
I am happy to discuss this matter further with the committee if that would be helpful. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert MacDonald,
Executive Director

**UPPER FRONT RANGE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION**

P.O. BOX 758
GREELEY, COLORADO 80632



February 11, 2016

House Transportation and Energy Committee:

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 16-1031, Transportation Commission Study Bill.

House Bill 16-1031 directs the joint House-Senate Transportation Committee (called the TLRC) to do a study to determine if the Transportation Commission districts should be modified. Legislative council staff, with the cooperation of CDOT, would assist the TLRC in conducting the study. Under the bill, the study would look at the changes since 1991 (the last time the general assembly adjusted the Commission districts) in population, number of lane miles, and annual vehicle miles traveled. The study would also take into account the boundaries of the transportation planning regions, existing county and municipal boundaries, and regional transportation areas and districts.

House Bill 16-1031 will help to determine if Commission districts will need to be modified to better serve the people of Colorado. We urge a "yes" vote on HB 16-1031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Kirkmeyer".

Barbara Kirkmeyer,
Chair

LARIMER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER TOM DONNELLY
SUZETTE MALLETTE, ENGINEERING
(970)498-7002

WELD COUNTY
COMMISSIONER BARBARA KIRKMEYER
ELIZABETH RELFORD, PUBLIC WORKS
(970)356-4000, EXT 3748

MORGAN COUNTY
COMMISSIONER BRIAN MCCrackEN
RICHARD EARLY, ASPHALT & BRIDGE DIRECTOR
(970)542-3500



Central Front Range
Transportation Planning Region

February 8, 2016

Representative Terri Carver
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support of HB 16-1031

Representative Carver and members of the Transportation and Energy Committee,

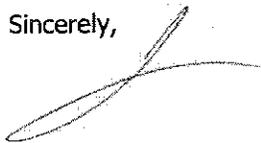
I am writing in support of your bill concerning a requirement that the Transportation Legislative Review Committee (TLRC) study the Transportation Commission Districts of the State of Colorado established in CRS 43-1-106 (2) to determine whether they should be modified.

Transportation Commission (TC) members are appointed from eleven statutorily defined transportation commission districts and the general assembly has not modified the number or boundaries of the districts since 1991. Over the last twenty-five years, the State of Colorado has seen significant changes that affect the local, state and federal transportation system. Annual funding for transportation can no longer keep pace with the costs of operating, maintaining, and improving the statewide transportation system. Like many other states, Colorado needs to explore funding options and finance mechanisms to stretch dollars further, and reduce dependency on uncertain federal funding. Our transportation system is a key element of a vibrant and globalized economy and decisions made about transportation investments create and enhance access to jobs, enhance freight movement, support increased trade, and improve economic competitiveness. Input from Transportation Planning Regions is key to enhancing and effectively managing and maintaining the transportation system.

Along with the State of Colorado, the Central Front Range Transportation Planning Region (CFR) has one of the most diverse and challenging transportation systems in the country. In order to provide, operate, and maintain a multi-modal transportation system that is appropriate for rural and urban areas, we need to work together to build on our work to-date to address the challenges that lie ahead. The CFR members believe that a research study that documents changes since the last time the general assembly modified the number of districts together with public hearings is a way to provide insight to whether regarding potential modifications to the number and boundaries of the districts would be beneficial. To address concerns that we heard from rural areas of Colorado, we recommend including square miles per TPR as one factor to consider in the study.

The TC advises and makes recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly relative to transportation policy and promulgates and adopts the Colorado Department of Transportation's budgets and programs. The CFR believes that it is important to have the TLRC with input from existing TPR areas study the district boundaries during the 2016 legislative interim to recommend whether the number and boundaries of the districts should be modified and, if so, what specific modifications should be made. The CFR encourages the Transportation and Energy Committee to advance HB 16-1031 and appreciates your sponsorship of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Adam Lancaster, Chair
Central Front Range Transportation Planning Region