Thank you, Chairwoman and the Colorado House Committee on Transportation and Energy for the opportunity to testify today on HB 17-1242. I am Joe Kiely and I am the Assistant Town Manager with the Town of Limon and the Vice President of Operations for the Ports-to-Plains Alliance. Progressive 15 has also asked that I express its support for this bill and hope you have read its comments previous to this hearing.

I have been involved in rural transportation planning since about 1992 including participation in rural transportation planning regions, State Transportation Advisory Committee, Colorado and Freight Advisory Council. I have been asked to represent the Town of Limon and Ports-to-Plains Alliance because of this background. Over the years I have worked in a bi-partisan way with multiple administrations for the betterment of transportation in Colorado. I speak to the importance of the statewide transportation system, not to the rural transportation system or the urban transportation system but to the statewide system because we all share the system and all rely on the economy of people and goods moved by the statewide system.

- Your just in time package ordered through Amazon, delivered by UPS, FedEx or the postal service... traveled across the statewide transportation system
- The produce and groceries in Safeway and Whole Foods and my local grocery store, even the organic foods at your farmers markets... traveled the statewide transportation system
- The visitors to your Front Range communities and mountains used the statewide transportation system to arrive at their destinations
- Yes, and most of you have used the statewide transportation system to travel out of state to vacation, visit families and friends
- The statewide transportation system moves Colorado's natural resources and produced goods across Colorado and to markets across the nation.

All those points apply to your constituents as well as you. It is time to give Colorado's citizens an opportunity to vote on a package that will provide significant funding to the statewide transportation system. Is the bill perfect? Probably not, but ask you to look through the bigger picture as outlined in the Resolution No. 17-03-09 of the Limon Board of Trustees. This resolution looks beyond perfect and addresses the need to support solutions for state-wide transportation funding that:
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- Provides permanent, reliable, and robust transportation funding for use as determined by the Colorado Transportation Commission pursuant to its statewide transportation planning process; and
- Establishes funding sufficient to seriously and aggressively address Colorado’s current and future transportation needs; and
- Allows for both maintaining and expanding the existing system to meet the needs of a growing state; and
- Is added to the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) including formula shares for municipalities and counties, and is protected from future legislative actions that re-direct the resources to other uses.

The Town of Limon, Ports-to-Plains Alliance and Progressive 15 ask you to support solutions for state-wide transportation funding that meet those simple goals. Those goals will still be in place should this bill fail but the opportunity to address those goals may be lost. There are areas of the state that are poised to create Regional Transportation Authorities to address their local transportation needs leaving future opportunities for a statewide funding weakened. There is no magic bullet... the road fairy died years ago. Transportation requires funding and that is a clear governmental responsibility. It is time for all parties to recognize that Colorado needs a strong transportation system to move its freight and people which drive its economy. Thank you!