



Arapahoe County

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Board Summary Report

File #: 25-384

Agenda Date: 8/5/2025

Agenda #:

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Michelle Halstead, Director, Commissioners' Office; Todd Weaver, Director, Finance

Prepared By:

Jessica Savko, Budget Manager, Finance; Kendra Davis, Management Analyst, Finance

Presenter:

Todd Weaver, Finance Director and Bryan Weimer, Public Works & Development Director

Subject:

2:00 PM *Transportation Funding Discussion

Purpose and Request:

The purpose of this study session is to provide information to the Board of County Commissioners about the County's funding for transportation infrastructure in the Road & Bridge and Infrastructure Funds. Similar to the study sessions from departments and offices, this will help inform the County's use of additional 1A funds and the upcoming 2026 budget discussions. It will also provide context for discussions on future investment structure and long-range planning.

Background and Discussion: During the 2024 General Election, Arapahoe County voters approved ballot measure 1A, which grants the County the ability to remove certain revenue and spending limits imposed by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). This approval allows Arapahoe County to collect, retain, and spend revenue that exceeds the limitations outlined in Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution. With this new flexibility, the County now has a unique opportunity to invest in long-term fiscal sustainability, improve service delivery, and address critical needs.

While the County will recognize approximately \$63 million in additional revenue in 2025, future financial projections show a \$20-\$25 million decline in new revenue from 2026 - 2029, which is attributable to state legislative changes and declining property tax assessments. If the county is too aggressive in adding ongoing costs to the budget, the new revenue could be fully utilized within the first five years leading to difficult budget situations in the future. This new revenue will be very beneficial for the county, but it will require budget discipline and an effective planning process to avoid this pitfall. As a result, several strategic goals have been identified to ensure the County remains fiscally responsible to its voters while creating a foundation for future growth and stability. Those goals include:

- **Address the County's essential needs** (under-resourced "have-tos" and the "should-dos" we've not been able to implement).
- **Extend the 1A funding** beyond a 5- to 10-year horizon.
- **Demonstrate measurable success and manage community expectations.**
- **Position Arapahoe County for consideration of additional ballot measures** within 4-6 years to

address larger needs.

To achieve these goals, Arapahoe County will need to take decisive action, engage stakeholders across the organization, communicate effectively with the community, and ensure sound and transparent finance management, all while ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability. The Board developed a plan designed to lay the groundwork for long-term success, which included the following action items:

- Review and update the strategic plan (completed).
- Develop a 1A Resident Advisory Committee (appointed April 22, 2025).
- Identify operational gaps and levels of service (May 5 - June 23, 2025).
- Identify one-time needs and strategic approach (ongoing).
- Review and restructure the 2026 budget and CIP processes (in progress).
- Address structural financing considerations, including special funds across the County (in progress).

In a series of prior study sessions, the Board heard from individual departments and offices about their operational gaps and current levels of service. This study session will provide an overview of the funding for the following County funds:

- Infrastructure Fund - tracks the construction costs of individual road, highway, and drainage projects.
- Road & Bridge Fund - established by Colorado law for the ongoing maintenance and improvement of roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure within the County.

Staff also conducted a review of similar funding mechanisms across the region and will provide that information for consideration. Future funding options will be offered for the Board's discussion and consideration.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Alternatives: This is an informational session.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☒ Be fiscally sustainable
- ☒ Provide essential and mandated service
- ☒ Be community focused

Concurrence: Public Works, Finance, and the Commissioners' Office support this informational presentation.