

Colorado Senate Bill 15-179

US Highway 50 Economic Benefits Study

Senator(s) Garcia, Crowder, Donovan, Grantham, Guzman, Jones, Kerr, Merrifield, Todd, Ulibarri

Representative(s) Esgar, Pabon, Moreno, Salazar

US Highway 50 is the same highway 50 that runs from Ocean City, Maryland across the United States through Colorado to Sacramento, California. US Highway 50 is the lifeblood to hundreds of communities in Colorado. Improving Highway 50 would directly improve the economic development for hundreds of communities in and around the highway. Additionally, the US Highway 50 corridor could be utilized in conjunction with Interstate 70 (I-70) for an overall improved transportation and economic development plan for Colorado.

Colorado's most congested east-west corridor is Interstate 70 (I-70). Congestion is the cholesterol of economic development. The Denver Metro Chamber & North Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation found that Colorado conservatively loses \$839 Million each year, due to congestion along I-70 between Denver and Grand Junction. Improving Highway 50 will work stop this economic loss, and bring new money, more business opportunities and prosperity to Colorado.

SB 179

- Compile existing Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Highway 50 safety/efficiency/capacity/usage information.
- Work with local communities on Highway 50 to finance an economic benefits study to examine when safety/efficiency/ capacity/usage improvements are made in whole or phases what measureable economic development gains are made for communities around Highway 50 and overall to the State of Colorado. Examine the economic development sectors such as but not limited to: agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and oil & gas.
- Examine safety/efficiency/capacity/usage and economic development opportunities on US Highway 50 and how it can benefit CDOT's overall statewide transportation plan and specifically its relationship with Interstate 70.
- Report the plan to both Transportation Committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2015

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