



January 12, 2015

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper  
State Capitol Building, Room 136  
200 E. Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

The Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation is writing in support the continuation of funding for History Colorado's Georgetown Loop Railroad Capitalization Project. The Georgetown Loop Railroad is a major contributor to our National Landmark Historic District designation and is an integral part of Clear Creek County's economic base and prominent regional and State attraction. We are grateful that after some hard years, the historic Georgetown Loop Railroad is starting to make a rebound in both operations and customer confidence.

However, without procurement and rehabilitation of locomotive engines, the railroad and local economies remain in jeopardy. So far, the Capitalization Project has allowed for \$600,000 State funds and \$200,000 earned revenue to be pumped back into necessary locomotive projects. The Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation has also used funds from the CDBG Business Loan Fund to support the rehabilitation and upkeep of the locomotive equipment.

Some interesting facts about the Georgetown Loop Railroad:

- The Georgetown Loop Railroad is operated through a cooperative management agreement between History Colorado and a local business, Historic Rail Adventures, LLC.
- The Loop welcomed over 108,000 riders in 2014. An additional 25,000 people came to visit the 1,000 acre park (to hike, bike, fish, or take in the scenery).
- The Railroad employees more that 70 people at the height of the operating season and another 15 people year-round.
- More than 50 businesses in the area, in Georgetown, Silver Plume, Empire, and Idaho Springs rely heavily on the draw of the railroad for summer business.
- In addition to being a premier visitor destination to our area, the railroad invests locally, and also consistently invests invaluable time and effort on local marketing.

In consideration of the fact that the Georgetown Historic Loop Railroad has become an essential economic engine in Clear Creek County, we hope that you will support this continuation funding request

so that we can continue to share its unique historical value with tourists and the citizens of Colorado. We appreciate your full and positive consideration. Thank you.

Regards,

*Peggy Stokstad*

Peggy Stokstad, President/CEO

CC: Lt. Governor Joe Garcia  
Capital Development Committee Members  
Joint Budget Committee Members  
Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting  
Ed Nichols, President and CEO, History Colorado  
Andy Stine, Director of Facilities & Historic Sites, History Colorado



# Clear Creek County

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Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We are writing in support of continued funding for History Colorado's Georgetown Loop Railroad Capitalization Project. The Georgetown Loop Railroad is a major contributor to our National Landmark Historic designation and an integral part of Clear Creek County's economic base. After some challenging years, the historic Georgetown Loop Railroad is starting to recover in both operations and customer confidence.

However, without procurement and rehabilitation of locomotive engines, the railroad and local economies remain in jeopardy. For example, in 2007 the Loop shut down for 40 days due to locomotive failures and was only able to host 50,000 riders in Clear Creek County. In 2013, the Loop missed only 1.5 days due to repairs. Hence, the railroad was able to welcome over 105,000 riders with such minimal down time. This is a direct result of the State's investment in this critical infrastructure. To date, the Capitalization Project has allowed for \$600,000 in State funds and \$200,000 in earned revenue to be reinvested into necessary locomotive projects.

Some interesting facts about the Georgetown Loop Railroad:

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- The Loop welcomed over 108,000 riders in 2014. An additional 25,000 people came to visit the 1,000 acre park (to hike, bike, fish, or take in the scenery).
- The Railroad employs more than 70 people at the height of the operating season and another 15 people year-round.
- More than 50 businesses in the area, in Georgetown, Silver Plume, Empire, and Idaho Springs rely heavily on the draw of the railroad for summer business.
- In addition to being a premier visitor destination to our area, the railroad is a major contributor to the local community via its broad marketing and advertising campaign.

The Georgetown Historic Loop Railroad is a critical economic engine in Clear Creek County and we hope you will support this continued funding request. We are proud to share its unique historical value with visitors and the citizens of Colorado. We appreciate your full and positive consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

CLEAR CREEK BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Thomas S. Hayden, Chairman



Phil Buckland, Commissioner



Timothy J. Mauck, Commissioner

cc: Lt. Governor Joe Garcia  
Capital Development Committee Members  
Joint Budget Committee Members  
Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting  
Ed Nichols, President and CEO, History Colorado  
Andy Stine, Director of Facilities & Historic Sites, History Colorado