



2014 STATE OF OUR CITIES & TOWNS TRANSPORTATION REPORT

There are nearly 16,000 miles of municipal streets in Colorado — that is 25 percent more than just a decade ago. That is also a lot of miles to pave, stripes to paint, potholes to fill, and bridges to maintain.

Every mile is essential to deliver goods to your neighborhood store, to get your children to school, to connect you to work, and to return you safely home.

The 2014 CML State of Our Cities & Towns looks at the state of this vital infrastructure.





Infrastructure needs outpace funding

The backlog of infrastructure projects is growing. Of the Colorado cities and towns surveyed,

- Nine out of 10 find funding for street maintenance a budget challenge.
- More than half list street maintenance funding as their number one fiscal challenge.
- On average, municipalities rate 30 percent of their streets as being in poor condition.
- Only 41 percent report sufficient dollars to fully fund their street maintenance schedules.
- 57 percent have unfunded major street repair or expansion projects.

Streets also reflect the changing complexion of transportation in Colorado.

- 45 percent of municipalities are now served by some form of transit.

Cities are reconfiguring streets to be bicycle and pedestrian friendly as these alternatives to the automobile grow in popularity.



Paying for transportation

A municipality pays for its streets from three primary sources: the municipal general fund; a dedicated sales tax or property tax; and the municipal share of the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF).

The primary revenue stream for HUTF is the 22-cents a gallon gasoline tax — which **has not been increased since 1991**. Today, that 22-cents **can purchase only 40 percent** of what it could then.

The combination of the **stagnant gas tax rate** and a **leveling of gasoline consumption** makes the HUTF a **less reliable revenue source** in the future.

Coloradans must ensure adequate funding of their transportation system in the future — it is vital to economic health.

To view the complete survey results, as well as a video on the State of Our Cities & Towns, visit www.cml.org.



Recession recovery continues

- 53 percent of all cities and towns report increased revenue in 2013 over 2012, one-third report about the same.
- Among Eastern Plains' communities, 27 percent reported better revenue, while 59 percent saw reductions.
- On the Western Slope, 61 percent reported increases, while 15 percent were down.
- Sales tax is the primary revenue stream for municipalities and 61 percent report an increase in this revenue in 2013.

Municipalities are working to improve the economic health of their communities through the efficient delivery of quality services and investment in economic development. Those efforts are yielding dividends: 54 percent of municipalities report their community as doing better in 2013, while only 13 percent report a worse local economic picture.