

CASTA Testimony in Support of HB 17-1242
MARCH 22, 2017

Hello, my name is Ann Rajewski. I am co-executive director of CASTA the Colorado Association of Transit agencies. CASTA has over 60 transit agency members from across the state of Colorado; RTD being the largest but we also represent mountain agencies like Crested Butte, smaller urban agencies and those like Dolores County Senior Services serving rural communities.

- Overall the CASTA Board supports this bill and believes that it addresses the challenges of Colorado's transportation system. Colorado faces significant mobility needs around state, that will only continue to increase given the growing and aging population. HB 17-1242 addresses these needs and goes a long way toward addressing the needs in rural and urban communities.
- The CASTA Board likes that funding structure of the bill and the multi-modal allocation. The committee provides a healthy level of oversight and expertise in making transit-funding decisions. This process allows funding to reach all the corners of the state with transparency and accountability.
- The transit funding will alleviate congestion on the state's most congested corridors - both in urban communities and along narrow rural highways.
- Transit funding will also provide additional transportation services for employees between affordable housing and employment centers - again, in urban, mountain and rural communities.
- We are most concerned with the match requirement. We have heard from our smaller and primarily rural communities that the 50-50 match requirement would preclude them from accessing the multimodal funding. These are communities that provide literally life-saving mobility services such as dialysis and other critical trips that allow our oldest and most frail residents the ability to age in place. We propose an amendment to address this issue with a scalable solution.

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