

**GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE**

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NEWS RELEASEFor immediate release

**LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS PRESENTED TO JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON JOB
CREATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

December 15, 2008, Denver, CO— During today's meeting of the Joint Select Committee on Job Creation and Economic Growth, the Colorado Municipal League (CML) requested that the Committee support the equitable distribution of any infrastructure stimulus money to the state and consider bold steps to find new revenue for enhancement of both state and local government capital spending. CML also feels that it is vital that any infrastructure stimulus received by the state be used cooperatively among state and local projects. Money received by the state and distributed to local governments should not be done in lieu of existing state obligations.

A number of CML's member municipalities submitted to CML descriptions of capital projects that are currently unfunded but could be under construction by the summer of 2009 if funding can be secured. CML compiled a list of their responses, which can be viewed at www.cml.org/pdf_files/letter_121908.pdf. While this list is not inclusive, it is a sample of the types of projects that await funding. CML's letter to the Joint Select Committee can also be found on this link.

Sam Mamet, CML's Executive Director, says, "These projects comprise the basic necessities of our communities: water, sewer, streets, sidewalks and bridges. They also carry a double benefit: Jobs to stimulate the economy today and an improved infrastructure that will benefit citizens for decades to come."

A 2007 comprehensive research project conducted by the Department of Local Affairs in conjunction with Colorado State University identified expected future municipal and county capital expenditures. The study concluded that annual capital needs will grow from an expected \$1.6 billion last year to \$2.2 billion annually in ten years. Many of the near-term projects would need only a funding stream to get started, at which time the impacts to jobs and the economy would be nearly immediate.

For additional information, contact CML's Legislative and Policy Advocates Kevin Bommer at kbommer@cml.org or Mark Radtke at mradtke@cml.org. Both can also be reached at 303-831-6411.

CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 263 cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit www.cml.org or call 303-831-6411.

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December 15, 2008

Members of the Joint Select Committee on Job Creation and Economic Growth:

The Colorado Municipal League has asked its 264 member cities to submit a description of capital projects that are currently unfunded, but could be under construction by the summer of 2009 if funding can be secured. We have heard from many cities and towns and have attached a sampling of projects that we know about. It is by no means a complete list of municipal projects, but is representative of the types and scope of projects that await funding.

The projects on the list comprise the basic necessities of our communities: water, sewer, streets, sidewalks and bridges. These are projects that are unfunded in a time when municipalities face flat or declining revenues. When revenues decline, cities and towns generally first reduce budgets for capital spending, maintenance and equipment replacement to avoid the reduction of direct services to the public for as long as possible.

Local projects equal job creation. As an example Denver has used the Federal Highway Administration standards to estimate 95 jobs would be created with the reconstruction of South Broadway between Iowa and Asbury. These projects carry a double benefit: jobs to stimulate the economy today and an improved infrastructure that will benefit citizens for decades in the future.

The growth in water and wastewater infrastructure needs has been well documented by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through the state's Intended Use Plans filed with the federal government every year. In 2008, 644 projects totaling \$2.7 billion in funding were identified, an increase of nearly \$600 million from 2005. Over 25% of this need is in small communities, many of them economically disadvantaged that serve less than 5000 residents.

85-percent of center lane miles in the state are on county and municipal roads. CDOT statistics show counties and municipalities together have a backlog of more than \$805 million in needed road improvements and \$340 million in bridge projects. Work is needed on 9,400 miles of local roads to improve the roadway surface quality from "poor" to "good". 1,136 miles of local roads need to be rebuilt to meet existing standards.

While the attached list represents a sampling of the projects that are "shovel-ready," a 2007 comprehensive research project conducted by the Department of Local Affairs in conjunction with Colorado State University identified expected future municipal and county capital expenditures. The study concluded that annual capital needs will grow



from an expected \$1.6 billion last year to \$2.2 billion annually in ten years. Many of the near-term projects would need only a funding stream to get started, at which time the impacts to jobs and economy would be nearly immediate.

As the prospect for a federal stimulus package for state and local infrastructure becomes increasingly likely, it is worth noting that those dollars should not be used as a replacement for existing distribution mechanisms and home-grown solutions. For example, legislation will be introduced in the next legislative session that will use a portion of existing state severance tax revenue currently allocated entirely for water supply projects and instead redirect it for water and wastewater projects in disadvantaged communities. The water supply programs will not be harmed, and positive job and economic growth would occur in areas hardest hit by the economic downturn.

Finally, it is vital that any infrastructure stimulus received by the state be used cooperatively among state and local projects. Money received by the state and distributed to local governments should not be done in lieu of existing state obligations.

We ask the Joint Select Committee to support the equitable distribution of any infrastructure stimulus money to the state, as well as consider bold steps to find new revenue for enhancement of both state and local government capital spending

Kevin Bommer
Legislative and Policy Advocate

Mark Radtke
Legislative and Policy Advocate



Sample List of Municipal "Ready-to-Go" Infrastructure Projects
 Compiled by the Colorado Municipal League
 December 15, 2009

Location	Project Description	Amount
Bayfield	Sewer system lift station – unfunded portion	\$1.0 m
Basalt	Willits trail bicycle and pedestrian trail construction	\$2.5 m
Bennett	1 st Street sewer line construction	\$0.5 m
Bennett	Construction of Laramie-Fox Hills water well and connection to system – number one town priority	\$0.8 m
Breckenridge	Reconstruction of Main Street	\$4.5 m
Breckenridge	Valley Brook Bridge repair	\$1.5 m
Breckenridge	South Park Avenue Bridge repair	\$2.0 m
Breckenridge	Peak 7 waterline replacement	\$0.6 m
Breckenridge	Recreation Center Roof Replacement	\$1.2 m
Breckenridge	Valley Brook Attainable Housing project	\$12.0 m
Breckenridge	Solar panel installation on Public Buildings	\$0.9 m
Breckenridge	Blue River Park improvement project	\$1.1 m
Buena Vista	East Main Street rehabilitation	\$1.1 m
Buena Vista	Gregg Road construction and water main installation	\$3.9 m
Buena Vista	Arizona Ave pedestrian bridge over Cottonwood Creek	\$0.08 m
Buena Vista	Airport apron and taxiway construction	\$0.86 m
Buena Vista	Install water storage tank – 1.5 m gallon	\$1.8 m
Burlington	Waste water treatment plant expansion and improvements	\$1.9 m
Centennial	Arapahoe Rd improvements (Waco to Himalaya) city share	\$11.2 m
Centennial	County Line Rd improvements(University to Phillips)city share	\$5.0 m
Centennial	Peoria Street reconstruction and roundabout	\$0.5 m
Centennial	Tagawa Gardens access road construction	\$0.25 m
Centennial	Orchard Road bridge	\$0.5 m
Cortez	Reconstruction and drainage improvement project covering several city streets	\$2.5 m
Cortez	Main Street waterline replacement	\$2.5 m
Cortez	Adams Street sewer line replacement	\$1.0 m
Cortez	Clay tile sewer lines replacement	\$4.0 m
Cortez	Broadband fiber extension to residences and businesses	\$8.0 m
CrestedButte	Wastewater treatment plant clarifier installation	\$1.7 m
Denver	Central Park Boulevard/I-70 interchange	\$50.0 m
Denver	56 th Avenue transition (Quebec to Havanna)	\$3.0 m
Denver	Broadway/I-25 interchange improvements	\$38.0 m
Denver	Union Station renovation	\$25.0 m
Denver	Downtown circulator infrastructure	\$25.0 m
Denver	16 th Street Mall reconstruction	\$16.0 m
Denver	Bikeway Alameda LRT to Broadway LRT	\$ 0.75m
Denver	Bike station at Denver Union Station Transit Hub	\$1.0 m
Denver	Cherry Creek Drive S reconstruction (Alameda to Colorado)	\$7.0 m



Denver	South Broadway reconstruction (Asbury to Iowa)	\$17.0 m
Denver	Alameda reconstruction (University to Cherry Creek)	\$3.0 m
Denver	Cherry Creek North stormwater outfall	\$4.0 m
Denver	Montclair stormwater outfall	\$20.0 m
Denver	Wolff Street bridge over Lakewood Gulch	\$1.5 m
Durango	Airport terminal roadway reconstruction	\$1.3 m
Durango	Florida Road widening, curb, gutters, sidewalks drainage	\$15.5 m
Durango	Replacement of deteriorated downtown sidewalks	\$3.0 m
Durango	Storm water pre-treatment to reduce sediment and hydrocarbon discharge into Animas River	\$3.4 m
Durango	Remodel historic library building to create useful public building for city office space	\$3.4 m
Durango	Replace and expand capacity of city recycling center	\$2.0 m
Elizabeth	Drill two replacement water wells – construct water mains	\$2.5 m
Evans	Extend 23 rd Avenue to connect 37 th St and 42 nd St – important connection in city arterial street network	\$0.75 m
Fort Collins	NE College Corridor Outfall stormwater project	\$10.0 m
Fort Collins	Bicycle/pedestrian trail underpass to connect two systems	\$1.0 m
Evans	35 th Avenue roadway construction	\$0.85 m
Fowler	Replace constricted sewer main	\$0.4 m
Fowler	Flooding mitigation project	\$0.7 m
Georgetown	Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade	\$3.5 m
Georgetown	I-70 roundabout to reduce congestion/improve capacity	\$1.0 m
Lamar	Restoration of two water storage tanks – 24” water line replacement – other system improvements	\$5.0 m
Longmont	Martin Street bridge construction unfunded portion	\$3.3 m
Longmont	3 rd Avenue bridge deck replacement	\$0.75 m
Longmont	Sunset Street bridge replacement over St. Vrain River	\$3.0 m
Mancos	Required replacement of sewage treatment facility	\$2.4 m
Mancos	Water main replacement	\$0.2 m
Meeker	Market Street (Highway 13) curb, gutter and sidewalk	\$2.6 m
Meeker	Extension of 2 nd Street to connect with Highway 13	\$2.0 m
Nederland	Sewer treatment plan replacement to correct violations	\$3.5 m
Ouray	Water treatment facility upgrade and storage tank	\$1.0 m
Parachute	West I-70 interchange construction to relieve major traffic congestion issues	\$15.0 m
Superior	Potable water service connection with Broomfield	\$0.15 m
Superior	Coalton/McCaslin Intersection and open space trailhead	\$0.5 m
Superior	Energy self sufficiency project – installation of 5KW wind turbines and solar panels to power six municipal buildings	\$0.5 m
Walsenburg	Replace rusting 1.5 million gallon water storage tank	\$1.5 m
Walsenburg	Sewer line installations to comply with court decree	\$3.5 m

Total of sample projects listed

\$380.84 m



Rocky Mountain News

Proposed fund would help towns upgrade water systems

By Jerd Smith, Rocky Mountain News

Published December 16, 2008 at 12:05 a.m.

Looking for a permanent cash fund to help small communities improve water and wastewater systems, the Colorado Municipal League said it will seek legislation next year that would create a \$10 million grant program using revenue from oil and gas taxes.

Kevin Bommer, a CML analyst, said the group, which represents 264 Colorado communities, expects bipartisan support for the proposal.

Dozens of communities have had difficulty maintaining their water systems and wastewater treatment plants and complying with federal and state health rules, he said.

The problem is most acute among communities with populations of 5,000 or less, where hundreds of millions of dollars in improvements are needed, but little cash is available, Bommer said.

"I would urge you to create something that is not a piecemeal approach," Bommer told a special economic stimulus committee at the state Capitol on Monday. Even prior to this downturn, he said, "We were headed toward trouble."

The proposal isn't likely to be popular among water providers and state water agencies, said Rep. Kathleen Curry, D-Gunnison, who supports the measure. Water agencies such as the Colorado Water Conservation Board have fought to protect the state's energy revenues because they are also used for water supply projects.

"I think the CML will run into stiff opposition," Curry said. "We've been wrestling with this problem for a long time. This isn't a perfect solution, but it's the best one I've seen in years."

Plan for grants

*** Who would benefit:** Small, disadvantaged communities of 5,000 people or fewer whose residents have median incomes of roughly \$28,000 or less.

*** What grants would do:** Provide funds to improve water and wastewater treatment plants to comply with state and federal health regulations.

*** Where money would come from:** State tax revenues derived from oil and gas development.

*** What is the need:** Some \$750 million is needed to complete 439 small water and wastewater projects statewide.

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