

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLORADO SENATE
★★★★ DEMOCRATS ★★★★★

Senate Republicans Side with Special Interests, Oppose Transportation Funding Bill

Denver, CO -- At the start of the 2017 legislative session, Senate Minority Leader Lucia Guzman [stated in her opening speech](#), “We are not in a position to pick winners and losers by trading the health of our working families for the health of our roads.” A couple short months later, Senate President Kevin Grantham and House Speaker Crisanta Duran [came together on a bill](#) that would put the power in the hands of the people of Colorado to raise money to fix our roads and bridges.

After [passing out of the House](#) with bipartisan support, House Bill 17-1242 came to the Senate. The bill passed out of the Transportation Committee 3-2, thanks to the Democrats on the committee Senators Nancy Todd and Rachel Zenzinger. Today, when the bill was heard in Senate Finance, the three Republicans on the committee voted to kill the measure, saying “No” to giving their communities the power to fund roads and bridges.

Members of the Senate Democratic Caucus sat and watched as a splintered Republican Senate Caucus sided with special interest groups, and opposed their own President as they cast their “No” votes. After the hearing, Senators Guzman, Todd, and Zenzinger released the following statements:

State Senator Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada

“It’s a sad day for Colorado when just three Republican Senators decide in committee to squash the work of so many other legislators in both chambers, effectively ending a bill that was a collaborative solution to Colorado’s transportation problems. As Senator Nancy Todd and I noted in the Transportation Committee, Coloradans have a right to

vote on whether to approve funding to fill potholes in roads and fix crumbling bridges. This was the time! If not now, when?"

State Senator Nancy Todd, D-Aurora

"Democrats were ready to give the people of Colorado the opportunity to make their choice on transportation funding. But, the Senate Republicans on the Finance Committee today obviously think they know better than their constituents. It is very sad to me that the Senate Republicans not only didn't unite behind their President and the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee to give the voters a choice, but immediately sided with big-money groups like Americans for Prosperity who have their own regressive agenda."

Senate Minority Leader Lucia Guzman, D-Denver

"It is now more important than ever the Senate approves moving the Hospital Provider Fee into an enterprise fund. Senate Bill 267 not only would arguably save hospitals, but could actually dedicate some funding for transportation projects in rural Colorado. If the 2017 Colorado General Assembly comes away without funding priorities for transportation and rural hospitals, we will have failed our citizens."

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About the Colorado Senate Democrats

The Colorado Senate is comprised of 35 Senators, 17 of which are Democratic. The Senate Democratic leadership for the 71st General Assembly is as follows: Sen. Lucia Guzman, Democratic Leader; Sen. Leroy Garcia, Assistant Democratic Leader; Sen. Lois Court, Caucus Chair; Sen. Matt Jones, Deputy Minority Leader for Conservation, Clean Energy, and Climate Change, Sen. Mike Merrifield, Caucus Whip; and Sen. Dominick Moreno, Joint Budget Committee member.