

HB18-1119 An Economic Analysis

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House Bill Highway Building and Maintenance Fund or HB18119 guarantees tax revenue



however, it is the government's responsibility to minimize this congestion to maintain the efficiency of the public good. Any state or federal government's role is to create efficiency through policy involving public goods when they exist in the market. The funding of state highways is well within the duty of a government aiming to create an efficient system.

Moreover, Colorado residents are in need of well-maintained and efficient roadways because of the increasing state population. An increasing population means an increasing usage of roads and more congestion on highways. In 2016, more than one in 10 Colorado households that filed a tax return in 2014 lived in another county or state the year before, according to the Denver Post. The newspaper notes that this rate exceeded every other state. As of 2013, people living around Denver were reported to be just as reliant on driving as commuters in any other city. Three-quarters of people in the metro area at large still commute by driving. Generally an increase in population while maintaining similar levels of road usage means that highway usage increases and are in need of more maintenance and expansion to compensate.

Naturally, Colorado residents could benefit from better maintained and more efficient highways; however, this bill does not adequately provide this improvement because of its relatively narrow scope. The recipient highways from the funding allocated in HB18-1119 are limited to specified high-priority highway projects. The number of high-priority highway projects are extremely limited because they are determined solely by the Chairman of the White

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<sup>4</sup> Svaldi, A. (2016, April 21). Colorado has more people on the move than any other state. Retrieved February 10, 2018, from <https://www.denverpost.com/2016/04/14/colorado-more-people-on-the-move-than-any-other-state/>

<sup>5</sup> Jaffe, E. (2013, March 26). After Decades of Sprawl, Density Comes to Denver. Retrieved February 6, 2018.



