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Gov. John Hickenlooper
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Dear Gov. Hickenlooper:

As executive director of the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition, and on its behalf, I write to urge you to sign into law SB 14-197. Promoting government transparency is the mission of the CFOIC, a non-partisan alliance of groups and individuals across the state focused on the rights of citizens to know how their government institutions operate, how public policies are formulated and adopted and how taxpayer dollars are spent.

It is clear that members of the public affected by the U.S. 36 toll-lane expansion project did not feel adequately informed about important financial aspects of the 50-year agreement between the Colorado Department of Transportation and Plenary Roads Denver. CDOT spokeswoman Amy Ford acknowledged the public's frustration after a three-hour meeting in Westminster last February, saying that angry residents should have been engaged "sooner and more robustly."

To address the matter of public involvement in public-private transportation projects, Sens. Matt Jones and Bernie Herpin and Reps. Mike Foote and Tracy Kraft-Tharp introduced SB 14-197, a bipartisan measure that has been approved by the General Assembly and now awaits your signature. This legislation would ensure that the public is sufficiently notified, and given ample opportunities to have their voices heard, during key stages of future "P3" transportation projects.

We agree with Rep. Kraft-Tharp's assessment of the U.S. 36 "P3" during a hearing on the bill in the House Transportation and Energy Committee. "There's a partner in here that got lost and that's the public," she said. "We have to make sure that we're building that public part in."

Signing the Transportation Enterprise Transparency Act would help shine more light on the public-private partnership deals that are necessary to finance needed improvements to Colorado's transportation system.

Our Coalition thanks you in advance for this and other efforts to increase the transparency of government operations that directly affect the lives of Colorado citizens.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey A. Roberts, Executive Director