

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Revenue History & Trends**

Fort Collins' transportation and transit services have faced significant, systematic revenue reductions since 2005. Federal, State, and County revenues from traditional funding sources such as Highway Users Tax fund (gas tax) and the County Road and Bridge fund have been reduced as much as thirty percent over the past five years. Elected officials at the federal and state levels continue to struggle to find more sustainable and politically palatable solutions to the current transportation funding challenges. New revenue sources such as Colorado's FASTER funds face legislative challenge and possible repeal in 2010. Meanwhile, more and more transportation and transit costs are being shifted to the local level as resources diminish.

Staff has reorganized, retooled and revised business practices in order to stretch declining revenues to maintain a good level of service to the community. Continued shortfalls will impact the ability of even the most efficient staff and programs to deliver world class service.

### **Service Impacts & Resource Needs**

As a result of Federal, State, and County funding reductions as well as declining local sales tax revenues, primary infrastructure maintenance activities such as Pavement Management, snow removal, street sweeping and patching potholes have all been scaled back. The community sees and feels the impacts of these reductions reflected in poorer road conditions, more debris and particulate matter on the streets, and less efficient snow removal efforts. Infrastructure replacement needs such as aging bridges and culverts cannot be addressed proactively. What the Community cannot immediately feel and see is the looming significant escalation of future costs to completely replace roads and bridges rather than make ongoing, systematic repairs and maintenance.

Fort Collins' transportation and transit challenges are not limited solely to maintenance needs. Currently there are few dedicated revenue streams for ongoing transportation capital project needs. The quarter cent Building on Basics (BOB) vote does dedicate capital project funding for a limited number of specific transportation projects. Nonetheless, there are still many areas of the Fort Collins road network with existing deficiencies that are the City's responsibility to address. These deficiencies are frustrating for motorists and can pose safety risks or even prohibit transit, pedestrian and bicycle use.

Capital needs also include replacement of aging and broken equipment. A significant portion of Transfort's bus fleet is past its useful service life. Snow plow trucks, front end loaders and other critical equipment age and break down. The cost to continually repair aging equipment past its prime far exceeds replacement costs and at some point becomes no longer feasible. Currently Streets has no remaining capital equipment replacement funding.

### **Summary**

Approximately \$6.5 million is needed annually for pavement maintenance to maintain streets, fill potholes and make basic repairs. This cost does not include resources to meet other pressing needs, such as bridges, transit, service, new roads, interchanges and other capital improvements. Fort Collins is a nationally recognized as a leader for its vision to develop, construct, and maintain a world class transportation system that offers mobility, accessibility, and choice to all its residents and businesses. Without additional resources, the transportation system and infrastructure is at risk.