



Senate Chamber
State of Colorado
Denver

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 03, 2005

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SENATOR ISGAR TO PROPOSE BONDING MEASURE FOR NEEDED STATE PROJECTS

Measure will fund transportation, public schools, higher ed, police and firefighters

DENVER—Colorado is under funded. Throughout the state, roads and bridges are falling apart, schools are crumbling, and tuition costs are rising. **Senator Jim Isgar (D-Hesperus)** will be the prime Senate sponsor on a legislative measure to allow for financing of these critical state needs.

“I have brought forward this measure to make sure that if the voters pass House Bill 1194 that some of the excess revenue will be allotted for our under funded state needs,” said Senator Isgar. “Construction of roads, bridges, schools and police pensions have been put on the list for completion, however, the state could not fund these project and have gone to the back burner.”

The bill, which has not been yet been introduced, authorizes the state to fund critical needs based on the passage of HB 1194. The measure allows the state to retain and spend excess state revenues from the added funding of 1194, if passed at the November 2005 statewide election.

The revenues will be used to repair and replace highways and bridges, as well as, other transportation infrastructure. Deteriorating public schools and higher education facilities will be repaired or replaced. And, the bill will address shortfalls in state funding of pensions for police officers and firefighters.

“With this measure we are assuring that the state uses some of the revenue from the lifting of Colorado’s spending limits for five years,” said Senator Isgar. “I want to be 100 percent sure that this added revenue will go to solve some of our most critical needs. In my district I have seen road construction halt without completion because of an empty state bank account.”

The following are just two examples of projects gone un-finished in Colorado effecting Senator Isgar’s area:

- **US 550 – New Mexico State Line to Durango** – (38% funded)
Consists of reconstruction and widening of US 550 from the New Mexico State line to US 160 at Durango. Significant realignment, reconstruction, safety and capacity improvements will be made to this roadway.

- **US 160 – State Highway 3 to the Florida River – (38% funded)**

Consists of reconstruction and widening of US 160 at the junction of State Highway 3 in La Plata County near Durango to the Florida River. Portions of the highway will be widened, as well as, a business frontage system. The project will address congestion and the high accident rate, twice the state average on the roadway.

Senator Isgar added, “We need to be equal and fair if this revenue is added, all projects that have not been completed must be funded. Bad roads lead to bad accidents on our highways; we must protect our citizens when they travel on our roads. Also we don’t want our schools to collapse and our police and firefighters should not worry when they retire.”

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