

**Get to Know
Colorado State Senator
Cheri Jahn**



State Senator Cheri Jahn is a Colorado native. Born in Sterling, Colorado she went on to obtain her paralegal degree from the Community College of Denver while founding her own housekeeping services business and raising her three children.

Cheri began her political career in 2000 when she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. In 2011, she was elected to her first term in the Colorado Senate to District 20, representing Jefferson County in the Denver metro area. Currently, Cheri serves as the vice chair of the Senate Transportation Committee as well as serving on the Capital Development and Business, Labor & Technology Committees.

Over the years Cheri volunteered over 7,000 hours to the Victims Services for several local police agencies. She lives in Wheat Ridge with her children.

TIGER VI

In late February, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the start of a sixth round of “Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery” (TIGER) discretionary grants, also referred to as “National Infrastructure Investment” grants. This grant round will be substantially similar to recent grant rounds, with minor changes in evaluation criteria and a lengthier application timeframe.

Under TIGER VI, \$600 million is available for project awards—a significant increase over the TIGER V appropriation. No state may receive more than \$150 million in total grants. No less than \$120 million may be awarded to projects in rural areas. Grants must be in the \$10 million to \$200 million range. For projects in rural areas, the minimum grant size is \$1 million. For planning grants, there is no minimum grant size.

TIGER VI will be mostly similar to previous TIGER grant rounds, with several key exceptions:



- **Priority for Longterm Job Growth for the Middle Class.** Additional weight will be given to projects that benefit strengthening opportunities to expand the middle class and stimulating longterm job growth, particularly in economically distressed areas.
- **Planning Grants Set Aside.** Of the total program funds, \$35 million is designated for planning grants. Such applications must be identified as project level or regional plan applications.
- **Project Readiness/Longer Range Projects.** In the previous TIGER round, immediate spending ability was critical. In TIGER VI applications that require slightly longer schedules are encouraged, stating that projects must be able to obligate funds by June 2016 and expend such funds by September 30, 2021.
- **Co-applicants.** Applications that identify coapplicants or project partners must be signed by not only the lead applicants, but also each co-applicant and/or partner organizations.

Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. Submissions may be made beginning April 3, 2014, and received no later than April 28, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. MST. For detailed information, visit <http://www.dot.gov/tiger>. For more information or questions, please contact Kurt Morrison, CDOT Office of Policy & Government Relations, at (303) 757-9703 or kurtis.morrison@state.co.us. This and other Policy Briefs are available on the CDOT Office of Policy & Government Relations website at: <http://coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/newpublications/policybriefs>.

Transportation Commission Calendar

Workshops/Meeting
April 16-17, 2014

Workshops/Meeting
June 18-19, 2014

All meetings scheduled for
CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

Workshops/Meeting
May 21-22, 2014

Workshops/Meeting
July 16-17, 2014

Telephone Townhalls

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is hosting a series of telephone town hall meetings this spring, providing the public with an opportunity to ask questions and provide input about regional transportation needs.

Beginning in early April and continuing through early June, residents in all 64 counties will be called at random through an automated system and invited to take part in the telephone forums. Coloradans who choose to join in will have the opportunity to express their thoughts about transportation, how CDOT should focus its limited funding, discuss the link between transportation and the economy and weigh in on regional priorities. The first townhall was conducted April 2nd in the Gunnison Valley and had apx. 2300 participants.

“It’s important that we hear from citizens throughout the state on how best to invest our limited transportation funds and what projects are a priority in their area.”

CDOT Executive Director Don Hunt

The interactive calls will reach out to approximately 375,000 people statewide. Residents simply stay on the line after answering their phones and will be connected to the meeting automatically. Anyone who wants to participate but did not receive a call can dial in, toll-free, at **1-877-229-8493, PIN 112034**. During the session, participants will be able to ask questions and discuss local issues with their transportation commissioner. In addition, people will be able to use their keypad to answer live polls during the forum.

All forums begin at 7 p.m. and are scheduled by county as follows:

April 2	Gunnison Valley	Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Quray, San Miguel
April 10	Eastern	Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Washington, Yuma, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Lincoln, Elbert
April 22	Southwest	Dolores, Montezuma, La Plata, San Juan, Archuleta
April 24	Southeast	Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Baca
May 01	Intermountain	Garfield, Eagle, Pitkin, Lake, Summit
May 06	South Central	Huérfino, Las Animas
May 08	Central Front Range	Park, Fremont, Custer, Teller, El Paso
May 13	Northwest	Moffat, Routt, Jackson, Grand, Rio Blanco
TBD	Upper Front Range	Rural Larimer, Weld, Morgan
May 20	Denver Area	Counties TBA
May 28	Denver Area	Counties TBA
May 22	North Front Range MPO	Weld and Larimer
June 24	Pikes Peak MPO	El Paso and Teller
June 29	Pueblo MPO	Pueblo
June 03	Grand Valley	Mesa