



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CONGRESSMAN BUCK PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR NORTH I-25 IMPROVEMENTS

WELD COUNTY, CO – This month, Congressman Ken Buck attended the North I-25 Coalition meeting to provide an update on the reauthorization of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). MAP-21, which after a series of extensions, is now set to expire July 31, 2015. Congressman Buck said the funding of a long-range Transportation Bill is still being debated amongst law-makers, and he urged the Coalition to continue developing a unified transportation solution for north I-25, which he committed to promoting at the Federal level.



*Congressman Buck with Weld County Commissioners, Larimer County Commissioners and other members of the North I-25 Coalition met this month to discuss the reauthorization of MAP-21 and the need for expansion on north I-25.*

"I-25 is one of 15 nationally significant highways in the United States as well as a major freight corridor. The stretch from Highway 66 to Highway 14 has steadily become more congested leading to increased traffic delays and safety concerns," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. "Businesses in northern Colorado need I-25 expanded in order to remain competitive, and residents and travelers need it expanded to improve safety."

As one of the fastest growing areas in the state, northern Colorado is expected to have a population of nearly 700,000 residents by 2020. The current condition of I-25 cannot support existing traffic volumes, and CDOT's plans to make improvements to the interstate are not scheduled for decades. The goal of the Coalition is to get a third general-purpose lane on I-25 from State Highway 66 to State Highway 14 included in the reauthorization of MAP-21 in order to open up potential funding opportunities for improvements to be made sooner than CDOT's goal of 2075.

"Our region is rapidly growing," said Commissioner Sean Conway. "In order to keep up with the growth and remain a successful and desirable area, we need a third lane on I-25. Through the work of this Coalition and with the support of state and Federal law-makers, we will strive to get north I-25 the attention and improvements it desires. For too long this important corridor has been ignored."

Congressman Buck joins Senator Cory Gardner and Congressman Jared Polis, along with other state and municipal leaders in supporting the Coalition's efforts.

For more information about the North I-25 Coalition, visit the Topic of Interest tab under the Commissioners web page at [www.weldgov.com](http://www.weldgov.com).

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