

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEN. RACHEL ZENZINGER

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ICYMI: Sen. Zenzinger's Interview with the Transit Alliance re: the 2017 Legislative Session

Denver, CO -- State Senator Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada, met with Jamie Perkins of the Transit Alliance Program to discuss the 2017 legislative session. As a Citizens' Academy alumni, Senator Zenzinger answered questions about transportation issues in her district and her outlook as a new Senator.

Q: What do you hope will come before the Transportation Committee this session?

"We're looking at doing a bill (probably a referred measure) to create a revenue stream to address our transportation needs in the state. It's been a long time coming. How that particular measure looks is undetermined at the moment, because we have a lot of different policy considerations to look at. We need to think about how we're going to address our aging infrastructure, which is then tied to our economy, and how are we going to make sure that we increase transit options so that our system will go further, work more efficiently, and provide more options to people."

Senator Zenzinger was adamant that any transportation funding bill must address the needs of the whole state, not just the Front Range:

"We need to make sure that this referred measure applies to all Coloradans and not just those people who live on the Front Range. That means that we need to be thinking of the needs of people who live in our rural communities across the state and we need to have a vision to make sure that they're included. Ultimately because of population growth we need to make sure that whatever we're doing with our transportation dollars, we're taking into consideration how we relieve congestion, and we address some of the impacts that come with population growth. There are a lot of stakeholders and a lot of

conversations to be had and people have very different ideas about [the] different policy considerations, so we need to make sure that we're listening. We also have to think about the taxpayer and what they can do and what they're willing to do. I think we need to be innovative and creative as much as possible and put in lots of different ideas so that we're not putting all of our eggs in one basket."

Q: Do you have any advice for Academy graduates interested in running for office:

"Do it, because the system is only as good as the people who are in it. If you get scared away because you think, "I won't be able to make an impact," then who's left? Then it's the people who are in it for the wrong reasons. You've got to get in there and you've got to do it. There are small victories and opportunities to work with one another, and if [there are enough people] saying "we have to put partisanship aside," then I think the policy position will prevail."

[Click here to read the full interview.](#)

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About the Colorado Senate Democrats

The Colorado Senate is comprised of 35 Senators, 17 of which are Democratic. The Senate Democratic leadership for the 71st General Assembly is as follows: Sen. Lucia Guzman, Democratic Leader; Sen. Leroy Garcia, Assistant Democratic Leader; Sen. Lois Court, Caucus Chair; Sen. Matt Jones, Deputy Minority Leader for Conservation, Clean Energy, and Climate Change, Sen. Mike Merrifield, Caucus Whip; and Sen. Dominick Moreno, Joint Budget Committee member.