

Tolls won't benefit I-70: 2 letters

by DP Opinion on April 7, 2008

Let's be clear about two things. First, a toll is a four-letter word for tax. Second, the tax in the form of a toll on everyday commuters at the Eisenhower/Johnson tunnels will do nothing to solve the problem of the Interstate 70 corridor. The amount raised would be an annual drop in the bucket of what it would take to do the job. What it would do is to impose an unfair burden on everyday citizens who depend upon the conduit for their livelihood and for getting to and from their homes and to gnarl traffic at a pinch point where it is routinely gnarled.

The bone being thrown to locals that we would be excluded is a canard, as that would be in violation of the Interstate Commerce Act.

This tax is being proposed by two Republicans, state Sen. Andy McElhany of Colorado Springs and state Rep. Mike May of Parker. When former Gov. Bill Owens considered the state of the Interstate 25 corridor, he asked the taxpayers of the state to ante up; hence, T-REX. The question McElhany and May must answer is why the road to their homes is the responsibility of all Coloradans while the burden of paying to improve the I-70 corridor should fall primarily on locals' shoulders.

Jerry Fabyanic, *Georgetown*

The Interstate 70 toll should not move forward. The mountain communities in Clear Creek County already have a hard time financially and this will create a negative impact on them that will only make it more depressed. It also hits the consumers who have little extra funds to go skiing the hardest — another poor man's tax — at a time when oil prices are forcing essential goods up even more.

We try to compete with other states for skiing and vacation dollars, and many may choose to go to more user-friendly locations. It doesn't seem logical to increase the road fund coffers at the expense of the mountain communities.

There has to be a better trade-off than that.

Tom Wilson, *Georgetown*



1 Comment »

1. The state of Colorado has no right to charge a toll for I-70. It's a federal highway, that has been paid for. This is just another Democrat idea. We all pay taxes to keep our highways in good condition, why isn't it done? By the way, where was that snow plow on West-bound I-70, March 31st, 2008, when the 75 car pile up occurred and a wonderful life was lost.

Comment by Julie Butler — April 7, 2008 @ 11:14 am