

# Planning for the Conservation and Development of Infrastructure Resources in Urban Area – Colorado Front Range Urban Corridor

*Things Planners, Decision Makers, and the Public Should Know*

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## Future Outlook

The steady increase in aggregate production and use that have occurred in the Front Range urban corridor since the 1950's is expected to increase (fig. 7). Even if large construction projects were to cease, ***demand for aggregates can be expected to continue at reasonably high levels due to projected population growth and demand for infrastructure improvements and maintenance associated with that growth.***

Although the project area has an abundance of aggregate resources, ***recoverable resources are being hauled from greater distances as local resources become depleted or inaccessible.*** The tonnage of aggregate being locally permitted for extraction has steadily decreased over time, and the area has been producing more aggregate than it has permitting in new resources since 1994, which is a net decrease in available reserves. If this trend continues, aggregate operators may be forced to move to resource areas even farther away from local markets, resulting in higher transportation costs. ***Increased costs for this aggregate would be passed along to State or counties as higher construction bids, to the consumer in the form of higher taxes, user fees, and purchase prices.***

Although permitted aggregate resources are sufficient for the short term, they cannot sustain a continued demand. The aggregate resource availability concerns in H.B. 1529 are even more pressing today than they were in 1973. ***Decisions made in the near future will have long-term effects on the continued availability of reasonably priced aggregate in the project area and the entire region.***